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"Earl RUSSELL communicated to the College of Physicians that he received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Manilla, to the effect that Cholera has been raging fearfully, and that the ONLY remedy of any service was CHLORODYNE."—See "Lancet," 1st December, 1864.

CAUTION.—BEWARE OF PIRACY AND IMITATIONS.

CAUTION.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood stated that Dr. J. Collis Browne was, undoubtedly, the Inventor of Chlorodyne; that the story of the Defendant, Freeman, was deliberately untrue, which, he regretted to say, had been sworn to."—See "Times," 13th July, 1864.

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STRAND THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8, SUNSHINE. At 8.45, ON 'CHANGE.

GAIETY THEATRE, STRAND.—This Evening, at 7.45, BILLEE TAYLOR. At 9.45, THE VICAR OF WIDEAWAKEFIELD.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE, Strand.—This Evening, at 8, CUPID'S MESSENGER. At 9, LOYAL LOVERS.

GLOBE THEATRE.—This Evening, at 9, THE PRIVATE SECRETARY. At 8, A BAD PENNY.

COURT THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8.30, THE MAGISTRATE.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Senate on Monday read a first time the Bills adopted by the Chamber of Deputies approving the general result of the Congo Conference, and the convention concluded with the International Association. The Bill sent up from the Chamber abolishing the restrictions on the rate of interest chargeable in commercial transactions only was also adopted. The Chamber annulled the election of three Reactionaries for Lozère on the usual ground of undue clerical influence, by 261 to 223. On Sunday two Opportunists were returned as Senators in Ain and Loir-et-Cher respectively.

The Madagascar committee of the Chamber on Tuesday adopted a report reducing the credits demanded by the Government by £32,000, on the ground that the country has clearly pronounced against colonial expansion. The report on Tonquin drawn up by M. Pelletan is of a similar character. The Chamber annulled by 311 to 211 the elections of the Conservative members for Ardèche, again on the ground of undue clerical influence. M. Baudry d'Asson then presented an interpellation concerning the arbitrary stoppage by the Government of the stipends of French priests alleged to have used their influence against Republican candidates. Hundreds of priests had, within the last month, been deprived of the stipends assigned by the Concordat. M. Goblet, Minister of Worship, defended the suspension of the stipends of 400 priests, mostly in Vendée :—

"The Vendéan priests," he said, "were really masters of the elections, and one of them had openly distributed voting-papers at the railway stations. All French Governments had exercised this disciplinary right, and he had taken this step only after careful inquiry into each case. If priests were bent on acting as members of the Government let them renounce State pay, but so long as Church and State were not separated he would enforce the rights of the latter."

Bishop Freppel argued that if the stipends of the clergy were a compensation for the secularisation of Church property, they could not be suspended; while, if the clergy were public functionaries, they, like other functionaries, could not have their pay stopped so long as they continued to act. M. Baudry d'Asson then replied to M. Goblet at length, being finally called to order by the President. The discussion was terminated by the Chamber voting, by a majority of 331 to 167, an order of the day declaring that it approved the measures adopted by the Government.

M. Gomot, the French Minister of Agriculture, is so well satisfied with his visit to M. Pasteur's laboratory that he will ask the Chambers to enable him to practise inoculation against rabies on a large scale, and to treat human beings suffering from that malady in a special hospital. About forty persons were under treatment when M. Gomot was at M. Pasteur's. One was a Hungarian sent by his Government. Another, a captain in the Russian Imperial Guard, whose hand a mastiff had bitten. He was accompanied by the Czar's doctor. There were several children who had received bites in the face. Two patients whom M. Pasteur claims to have saved gave him between them a donation of £48, which he sent to a night asylum for indigent houseless persons.

The Paris *XIXème Siècle* gives some curious particulars of an adventurer, who lately died in London, styling himself "Prince Louis Marie César of Bourbon, grandson of Ferdinand VII. of Spain." He appeared at Paris in 1869 under the name of Comte Blanc, being accompanied by his sister, Patrocinio, the famous stigmatic, and by a Dominican monk, confessor to Queen Isabella. The husband of the Queen treated him as a kinsman, and the Queen herself wrote to him as "Dear Nephew." During the siege Comte Blanc, while parading himself at one of the ambulances, was recognised by a leading Paris photographer as a son-in-law whom he had dismissed for misconduct. In 1871 he made the acquaintance of a rich English widow, daughter of one of Napoleon I.'s aides-de-camp. She pitied him, sympathised with his project of regenerating Spain, and advanced him 300,000f. Blanc thereupon settled at Jurangon, near Pau, in a splendid villa, built by an aged Legitimist, who recognised him as his lawful King. Here a small Court was kept up, the English widow acting as Grand Mistress of the Palace and a General's son-in-law as Chamberlain. The "King" distributed titles and decorations, offered up his devotions daily in a Spanish convent chapel, and one morning saw the image of Christ fix its eyes on him affectionately. This miracle strengthened the belief of host, widow, sister, and confessor. But the Préfect, hearing what was going on, begged the nuns to go back to their own country. The Paris police sent over and arrested the Count, searched his rooms, and seized a packet of photographs representing him in Royal apparel—the costume having been furnished by a Paris milliner, whose bill of 45,000f. was paid by Queen Isabella. A policeman, one Gérard, escorted Blanc to the frontier, but on the way was won over by him and agreed to become his Secretary. The pretender took refuge first in Holland and then in England.

ITALY.—A correspondent of the *Times* writes from Naples, Dec. 12:—"Two or three days ago it was reported that an aerolite or meteorite of considerable dimensions had fallen in the Via Fiorentini. Such was the statement of Professor Del Gaizo, confirmed by the representations of Signori De Luca, and published in the *Pungola* and the *Roma*. Unfortunately on the day following appeared a letter in the same journals, signed Dr. Johnson Lavis, disputing the accuracy of the report. Dr. Lavis had been to the house of the De Lucas, had seen the so-called meteorite, and examined a fragment which had been presented to him. 'Unfortunately,' he says, 'I recognised at first sight that this supposed piece of the comet of Biela was nothing but a mass of Vesuvian lava, probably ejected by the eruption of 1631, and thrown from a height into the street by some boy or malicious person. The patina described by Professor Gaizo is composed principally of organic substances, and its general appearance indicates that it has been used by a shoemaker for beating leather upon it. I am now making a microscopic examination of it, and will report to-morrow.' This he did, and the result is as follows:—'The stone is a leucitofiro resembling much the lava of 1631, especially such as is found in the hollows of La Scala.' Dr. Lavis then gives the reasons of his opinion. 'It does not present that dark, glassy superficies, showing the fusion produced by friction with the atmosphere during its fall. It presents on salient points a composition of organic substances, principally gaseous. The presence of leuciti, not recognised as yet in meteorites, is characteristic of the rocks around Vesuvius. The absence again of metallic iron, found in nine-tenths of the meteorites, is another ground of my opinion.' Professor Del Gaizo, who had already reported the supposed wonderful event to Father Denza, of Moncalieri, writes as follows after seeing the letter of Dr. Lavis:—'The testimony of witnesses was supported by the fact of the enormous quantity of falling stars observed on those days. All this urged me with enthusiasm to report the incident. Yesterday, however, after an examination with the magnometer, after a determination of the specific gravity of one of the fragments, a certain doubt arose within me, which was increased on reading the letter of Dr. Lavis. This morning I have seen together with the Professor the *preparato microscopico*, showing the presence of leuciti, and I have accepted his conclusions.' Such is the history of a great scientific error, and of a great disillusion. Another disillusion of a very different character occurred at the end of November, near Palermo. The *Pungolo* reports it under the heading of 'Medio Evo.' A man who had given indications of insanity was denounced by his neighbours to his wife 'as having a *spirito maligno*.' Influenced by their suggestions, she had recourse to a wizard of high repute near at hand, with whom she entered into an agreement for the cure of her husband at a certain price. The poor madman was taken to the house of the *scaccia* (the exorciser), who was a peasant. After having been well beaten and pounded he was taken home half stupefied. Three days after, the experiment was repeated in the presence of his wife and some relatives who accompanied him. The *scaccia* began to strike him with his fists—inflicting heavy blows on the head—then, seizing him by the hair, he dragged him about the room, and lastly got on his chest and kicked him. On being put into bed he suffered atrocious pain, throwing up a quantity of blood, and expired in five hours. The police on being informed of it, arrested the *scaccia*, as well as the wife and relatives of the murdered man. There will be a trial, of course, and with *circostanzi attenuanti*, the jury of this enlightened country will probably dismiss the criminals with a nominal punishment.

The Act concerning the settlement of the Caroline Islands question through the mediation of the Pope was signed at noon on Thursday at the Vatican by the representatives of Germany and Spain and Cardinal Jacobini. The document sets forth the basis of negotiation formulated by the Pope and accepted by both parties, and also the articles of the agreement concluded between them in consequence of that adhesion.

GERMANY.—In the Reichstag on Saturday, Herr von Boetticher, Secretary of State, in the course of the debate on the Budget, stated that as an experiment for one year Antwerp had been chosen as a port of call for the new German subsidised steamship lines. The Government, however, reserved the right of choosing another port if, after the expiration of that period, such a course should be found desirable.

SPAIN.—Queen Christina on the 10th inst. received the Ambassadors Extraordinary sent by the Pope, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and Venezuela, who conveyed condolence for the death of King Alfonso and expressions of sympathy for Spain and the Regent. On the 11th (yesterday week) she received the special Ambassadors of England and Russia and the Envoys Extraordinary of the United States, Holland, and Roumania. The Queen conversed with the Duke of Wellington in English, after he had delivered a letter of condolence from Queen Victoria. The Duke afterwards introduced the members of the Special Mission. On Saturday the solemn funeral service was held, in the Church of San Francisco, not as at first intended in San Isidore. The building forms part of a former Franciscan monastery, and is now a parish church. Part of the edifice is used as a house of refuge for missionaries of the Order in Morocco and Northern Africa. Another part is used as a barracks, and the military prison of the capital is situated within its walls. In order not to hide the marbles and frescoes, the chapels alone were hung with black velvet, fringed with gold. In the centre of the nave was the catafalque, covered with cloth of the time of Philip III., with the arms of Spain embossed on it, almost hidden by splendid wreaths, including some from the Prince of Wales, and a crown of immortelles from Queen Victoria, with a small card on which she had written with her own hand, "Une marque de respect affectueux de la part de Victoria R. et I." Queen Christina was deeply moved on hearing of this. One hundred large wax tapers surrounded the catafalque, which was guarded by six halberdiers and four huntsmen of Espinosa. Among the Prelates were Cardinals Monescillo and Gonzalez, and the Cardinal Archbishop of Saragossa, the Archbishops of Burgos, Granada, and Valladolid, and twenty-seven Bishops. Within the lower rails, below the Bishops, came the Ambassadors Extraordinary and their suites. Then came the diplomatic corps in Madrid around the catafalque. The Ministers, ex-Ministers, deputations, and representatives of the Grandees of Spain, the military orders, the tribunals, and the municipalities, made up the number of 2,500 for which the church afforded space. Mass was said by the Bishop of Madrid, and the sermon preached was an eloquent eulogy of Don Alfonso. The preacher prayed that Heaven would preserve Queen Christina to Spain.

PORTUGAL.—The death is announced from Lisbon of King Ferdinand, father of the King of Portugal. The late King was born on the 29th of October, 1816, and had consequently just completed his sixty-ninth year. He was the son of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg, and first cousin of the late Prince Consort. In 1836 he married Queen Maria of Portugal, who died in November, 1853. He received the title of King in 1837, and was Regent during the minority of his son, the late King Pedro V., who was succeeded in 1861 by the present King. In 1869 King Ferdinand married the Countess Edla.

AMERICA.—The ninth and last will executed by the late Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt is dated September 23, 1884. By it he bequeaths to his widow an annuity of 200,000dols., and the sum of 500,000dols. for her own use absolutely. Mrs. Vanderbilt is also to occupy for the remainder of her life her present residence, which is probably worth 5,000,000dols., and to have the enjoyment of the objects of art it contains, which are estimated at another 1,000,000dols. After her death the house and its contents go to the youngest son for life, and thereafter to the eldest male descendant in the line of the eldest son, Cornelius, who was named after his grandfather, the old Commodore, the founder of the family fortune. Each of the four daughters is left her residence. To each of the eight children 5,000,000dols. is bequeathed absolutely; and an equal sum is left for each child in trust. Thus the money to which each child is entitled is two millions sterling. A special gift of 2,000,000dols. is made to the eldest son. The will enumerates sixteen annuitants to the amount of 32,000 lols., and thirteen bequests to public and charitable institutions, make a total of 1,200,000dols. The residue is to be divided equally between the two elder sons, Cornelius and William. This remainder is estimated at about an equal amount to all the other sums—namely, 90,000,000dols. Mr. Depew, speaking for the family, says:—"All the heirs are entirely satisfied with the provisions of the will. As far as the stocks and bonds of various railway companies devised to the children are concerned, the family have united in an undertaking that they will act together in holding and in administering them. Consequently no disposition can be made of any of this railway property by sale without the joint consent of all. By this plan the control and management of the properties known as the Vanderbilt system will remain unchanged." Among the bonds included in the bequests are 35,000,000dols. of United States Four per Cents., 4,000,000dols. of Central Sevens, 800,000dols. of Lake Shore First Sevens, 8,200,000dols. of Lake Shore Second Sevens, 40,000 shares in the Central, 30,000 in North-West, and 50,000 in Lake Shore stock, as well as a large amount in Harlem and North-Western bonds. It has transpired that the late Mr. Vanderbilt gave 5,000dols. to the last Irish Famine Fund, and also wished to contribute 100,000dols. to Mr. Bennett's Fund, making it a condition that the entire sum should be expended in Western America in the purchase of provisions and cereals for Ireland. As, however, Mr. Bennett preferred to send cash, Mr. Vanderbilt withdrew his offer.

TURKEY.—The *Novoe Vremya* gives the following summary of the territorial losses of Turkey during the last two centuries. Since the capture of Constantinople in 1453 they had gradually seized the whole of the Balkan Peninsula, excepting Montenegro, the Peloponnesus, the northern shore of the Black Sea, and of the Sea of Azov. In 1711 the Ottoman Empire possessed more territory in Europe than any other Power except Russia, her possessions extending westward to the Adriatic and the Danube, and eastward to the Dniester, the Dnieper, the Don, and the Kuban. Thus Bessarabia, the Crimea, and other Mongolian regions were under the dominion of the Turks, whose possessions on the Continent of Europe covered an area of 15,454 square miles. But from this period the decadence of Turkey commenced, and, with the exception of her temporary success against Austria in 1739, she went on losing territory to such an extent that upon the eve of the war with Russia she had only 9,456 square miles of territory, of which 2,948 miles were governed by princes, who merely owed her suzerainty. The Berlin Treaty deprived her of 4,558 miles, so that from 1700 to 1878 the Ottoman Empire lost in Europe 10,666 square miles, out of which 8,902 were conquered by Russia, who has annexed 4,816 square miles. After the war of 1877-8 Russia annexed 468 square miles in Asia Minor and 167 in Europe, while Austria annexed 1,073 (Bosnia and the Herzegovina), and England 174 (Cyprus).

SOUTH AFRICA.—A Reuter's despatch from Capetown, of date the 25th of November, says:—"The High Commissioner has visited Bloemfontein, where he met with a most cordial welcome. Colonel Clarke reached Bloemfontein from Basutoland the day previous to his Excellency's arrival. No particulars of what passed at the meeting with President Brand have transpired. The High Commissioner has returned to Kimberley, and Colonel Clarke to Maseru. The members of the recent deputation to Khama have been released; bail being given for their future observance of the proclamation forbidding residents in Bechuanaland to leave the territory or to give military aid to native chiefs. They have left Vryburg and are now living in the Transvaal on the Stellaland border. The chief Massouw has declared that he will rather fight than pay taxes to the Transvaal Government. It is reported that a man sent by General Joubert to collect taxes was stabbed to death. General Joubert has moved to Mamusa with the Transvaal artillery and 400 Boers. The Bechuanaland police are stationed all along the Transvaal border. No fresh intelligence has been received from Pondoland; but the Josiah Jenkins tribe (Pondos) are believed to have been routed by the Bacas (Loyals). The Chief Magistrate of Griqualand has left for the scene of disturbances to investigate the matter."

EGYPT.—The correspondent of the *Times* at Wady Halfa reports that at daybreak on Saturday the enemy, 3,000 strong, having during the night avoided Kosheh, attacked the small fort at Mograkeh, two miles to the north. The Arabs got within 100 yards of the fort, but were repulsed by the gallant defence of the garrison, which was composed of 300 of the 3rd Battalion of the Egyptian army, under Major Besant. The enemy then retired to the hills, having occupied Ferkeh, seven miles to the north of Mograkeh. The Arabs also opened a heavy rifle and artillery fire on the west and east forts at Kosheh, the shell-fire being chiefly directed on the steamers. Our casualties were very slight, but the enemy's loss was very heavy.

On Monday General Butler made a reconnaissance in force towards Kosheh, but met with no opposition. Ferket was found to have been deserted by the enemy, who had looted the village. Many of the enemy were found dead outside Mograkeh. Deserters estimate their loss at 250.

It has been decided to add to the Egyptian Army a Soudanese garrison battery for service at Souakim. It will consist of 200 men, its official designation being "The Souakim Garrison Battery."

On Wednesday morning the enemy opened fire upon Kosheh from a battery on the opposite side at 1,500 yards distance. After the battery had been silenced a heavy fire was kept up from behind the sand hills. Colonel Hunter was severely wounded in the chest. Major Chalmers, Lieut. Cameron, and two privates of the Cameron Highlanders were also wounded.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"The occupation of Dongola is contemplated. To retire during the present state of affairs would affect most injuriously British interests. Meanwhile this desultory fighting causes great uneasiness and disquietude in Egypt. The Egyptian Government intends to ask the Legislative Assembly to proclaim martial law. This is considered necessary owing to people corresponding with and passing to and from the Soudan. The former Vakeel of Dongola has been sent to Wady Halfa. This seems to be significant of an intention to advance."

A letter from Cairo to the Vienna *Political Correspondence* confirms the statement that the danger of the situation in Egypt is growing more and more serious. It says:—"The opinion prevails that the front attacks of the Soudanese to the south of Wady Halfa are but a manœuvre to divert attention from the columns marching by way of the desert to Assouan. General Grenfell reports direct to Mr. Egerton, and the latter to London, so that even the Khedive and his Ministers only obtain their information indirectly from London. The last encounter showed that the Soudanese were armed with Remington rifles, and that they also had breech-loading cannon, and knew how to manage their batteries. Further, they seem to have abandoned their old tactics of making attacks *en masse*, and have learned to fight in dispersed detachments. Their military training is explained by the fact that at least 15,000 officers and men who formerly belonged to the Egyptian army are now serving in their ranks."

According to the Arabian organ *Akhbar*, the Caliph Abdullah, before starting with his hosts for the invasion of Egypt Proper, caused the following proclamation to be posted up on the mosques and in the streets of Abou Hamed:—

"Abdullah, the servant of the Almighty and Prince of the Faithful, sends his greeting to all inhabitants of the Soudan who truly believe in the Prophet and rigidly observe His laws. God's blessing and protection be with you all. You know full well that before Mahommed Achmet, the last teacher and leader sent by the Prophet, left this world he appointed me, his most unworthy servant, to succeed him, and commanded me to continue the struggle against the unbelievers until they should be totally annihilated, and not one of them should be left in the Soudan or in Egypt. The time has come for me to carry out this mission in order that God, his Prophet, and the Mahdi may rejoice their servant and crown him with favours. Gird up your loins, ye faithful; take up your swords and your faith, leave your horses, your fields and your herds, and come out to fight the unbeliever and his allies. The Prophet and 10,000 angels will fight on your side, and your enemies will be mown down. If ye shall fall yourselves ye will be gathered unto God's garden, and there the Prophet himself will greet ye. Arise and join in battle against the unbelievers; fear them not, neither their rifles nor their guns, for what can they avail against God and his Prophet? God is with us, while Satan is with our enemies, and he will leave them in blindness until they shall be annihilated."

Bishop Sogaro, writing from Cairo to the *Vaterland*, gives some details which he has collected as to the murder of the Austro-Hungarian Consul Hansal at the taking of Khartoum. He says:—"Our unhappy friend was murdered while descending the staircase of his house, but not by Arabs, for the Mahdi had given orders to these to spare him. The murderer was a man named Mohammed, who had been Hansal's cavass, and had subsequently, on Hansal's recommendation, been appointed by us gaffir, or watchman, of the European cemetery. This man, seeing the Consul coming downstairs, cried, "Let him not live, for he is an unbeliever!" and with these words thrust his lance into Hansal's body. Mohammed then killed the Consul's dog, and, for greater ignominy, laid the animal beside his master's corpse, saying that instead of an angel a dog had come to fetch him. This happened on January 26, the day of the fall of Khartoum, and the body laid for two days untouched. On the third day it was thrown into the river in front of the Consulate, where, owing to the low level of the water, it remained till the May floods, when the bones were washed away. Hansal's youngest son, who was born at Khartoum on January 18, 1880, and christened on the 25th of the same month by Father Bonomi, who gave him the names Martin Albert Sebastian, was about to be carried off as a slave by the Arabs. But when the Mahdi heard of it he desired to have the boy near him, saying, 'As I was to have the father, I will educate the son.' At the beginning of May the Mahdi held a feast to celebrate the circumcision of his own son and of Hansal's. The boy is now living in the same house as the Mahdi's widows and children."

BURMAH.—Theebaw's destination is, it appears to be Raniput, near Arcot, but the Dowager Queen and Soopyalat's elder sister will be taken to Tavoy; and the five princes sent by Colonel Sladen from Mandalay will go to Mergui. Theebaw took away with him jewellery valued at four lakhs of rupees, and the Dowager Queen retains her jewellery worth two lakhs. Mr. Bernard has come to the conclusion that the prospect of restoring order in the Minhla district is a hopeful one. The best results are anticipated from Mr. Bernard's presence in Upper Burmah. The Rangoon Chamber of Commerce has petitioned to have the regular traffic by means of the Irrawaddy flotilla steamers with Upper Burmah resumed, and Mr. Bernard has promised compliance with the request. The steamers are now reserved for military purposes, and although sent empty from Mandalay, are forbidden to receive passengers *en route*. Urgent applications for rice have been received from the Civil Office in Upper Burmah, as great scarcity prevails. Civilians are prevented from leaving Mandalay for the lower province except by special permission. All tele-

grams referring to the condition of the upper province are subjected to the censorship of the military authorities at Thayetmyo. It is semi-officially stated at Mandalay that the reason for employing the Tynedah is his great personal influence with the dacoits and other bad characters. The results anticipated have not, however, yet followed. A considerable force of dacoits is assembled at Monthobo, which is eighty miles north of Mandalay, and is the birth place of Maungpra. A district about twenty miles north-east of Mandalay is very disturbed, and there is much dacoity in the vicinity of Mandalay. The Shans are in arms, but it is believed merely for the purpose of looting the Burmans who are flying to the Shan States. Important correspondence in connection with the recent French treaty has been discovered in the palace at Mandalay. The Viceroy expected to reach Rangoon about January 20 on his way to visit Mandalay.

King Theebaw's sacred white elephant died on the 6th inst. Kin Woon Mengyee requested that it might be allowed to lie in state for three days, but General White replied that this could not be permitted for sanitary reasons, although any other mark of respect might be paid. It was therefore buried in the cemetery on the following day in presence of a large concourse of natives. Many Burmese dignitaries also attended the ceremony in state.

Intelligence was at Rangoon on Wednesday received from Tummoo, through the Government agent at Munipoor, that eleven Europeans employed by the Bombay and Burmah Company in the Chindwin Forest were massacred at Kendat, on the Chindwin River, by Burmese soldiers sent from Mandalay in a King's steamer. Their names are—Morgan, Hill, Roberts, Allen, Morcar, Bretto, Ross, Bates, de Gois, and Ruckstahl (2). Although the intelligence has not been officially confirmed, it is believed both by the Bombay and Burmah Company and by the Government. Tummoo, whence the report comes, is about forty miles from Kendat, the scene of the reported massacre. No intelligence of the missing men has been received since the 20th of November, when they were seen retreating up the Chindwin River in two steam-launches in order to reach Munipoor. The Burmese troops who murdered the Europeans were commanded by Thandaw Moung Son Boung, a Palace official, who, when he overtook the Europeans, immediately murdered them. It is stated that evidence exists implicating Tynedah in the massacre, but it is as yet unconfirmed. A Burmese report says that two of the missing Europeans were seen several days subsequent to the occupation of Mandalay, alive and prisoners on board a steam launch on the Chindwin River. The inaction of the military authorities at Mandalay in neglecting, although urged to do so, to send a steamer up the Chindwin River is severely criticised here. The missing men were well known in Rangoon, and were connected with some of the leading residents. The reported massacre has caused a deep feeling in Rangoon, and the alleged complicity of Tynedah has intensified the feeling of indignation at his continuance in office. Thandawzin has returned to Mandalay since the occupation and caused a report of his death to be circulated. So far as is known, no steps have been taken to arrest him. Before the *ultimatum* was sent a warning was conveyed to the missing Europeans by the Bombay and Burmah Company, and they were directed to retreat to Munipoor, or take such steps as they might deem best for their own safety. They courageously decided to remain, endeavouring to protect their employers' valuable property. The Toungoo column has suffered from cholera. Nine of the Somersetshire Regiment, five artillerymen, and sixteen Sepoys have died.

BULGARIA AND SERVIA.—A Note from the Bulgarian Government was on Wednesday delivered to the representatives of the Powers of Sophia accepting the Military Commission appointed to conclude an armistice, on condition that a Bulgarian delegate is admitted on the Commission, that the Powers shall in no case permit Servia to resume hostilities, and will require that State to evacuate the Widdin district.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* says:—"The plan proposed is to make a survey of the ground from a technical military standpoint, and lay down lines of demarcation which would allow both armies to withdraw into sheltered cantonments, leaving the outposts, so to say, under a European guarantee against surprise. The Commission will also deliver an opinion as to the reasonableness or otherwise of Prince Alexander's demand that the Servians should evacuate Bulgarian soil while the Bulgarians continue to hold Pirot, pending the peace negotiations. Should any difficulties arise on this point, as is almost certain, the Attachés will report to their Governments; their chief object being to prevent the possibility of further strife; and to save both armies from the severity of the season under which they suffer. Many of the Servians, it is reported, were frozen to death at the outposts during the two terrible nights of the snowstorm.

The Semlin correspondent of the *Daily News* says that little importance is attached there to the talk of a pacific solution of the present situation. The advent of the Demarcation Commission has been looked upon there simply as a farce preliminary to the continuance of the war with greater vigour when the weather breaks. A Belgrade telegram says it is believed that the Servian Government contemplate raising another loan.

Madjid Pasha, the Turkish special Envoy to Prince Alexander, accompanied by General Chakir Pasha, passed through Philippopolis early on Wednesday morning by special train on his way to Sophia.

On account of the continued menacing attitude of the Bulgarians and of their demand for the evacuation of the Widdin district by Servia, the force under General Leschjanin is being rapidly augmented. A movement of the Bulgarians at Pirot towards Knjazevatz is also apprehended, and Servian troops are consequently being conveyed to Paratshin, and marched thence across country.

Lord Carrington, the new Governor of New South Wales, and family arrived at Sydney on Saturday in excellent health after a good passage, and met with an enthusiastic reception. His Lordship has been sworn in. In the Legislative Assembly the Premier and Colonial Treasurer made his financial statement, setting forth the causes of the deficit. He estimated that the revenue of the current year would reach a total of £7,750,000, while against this there was an estimated expenditure of £8,800,000, leaving at the close of the financial year a deficiency of £1,050,000, which the Government proposed to meet, in part by the application of an estimated surplus of £243,000 in the revenue of 1886, which was expected to reach £8,850,000, and the residue by the issue of short-dated Treasury bills.

The following "Memorandum respecting the case of The Queen *v.* Riel," drawn up at Ottawa on Nov. 25, by Sir Alexander Campbell, Minister of Justice, during the proceedings against Riel, at the request of the Committee of the Canadian Privy Council, has been published. After recounting at considerable length the circumstances of the rebellion and of Riel's trial and conviction, Sir Alexander Campbell concludes as follows:—"Whether rebellion alone should be punished with death is a question upon which opinions may differ. Treason will probably ever remain what it always has been among civilised nations, the highest of all crimes; but each conviction for that offence must be treated and disposed of by the Executive Government upon its own merits, and with a full consideration of all the attendant circumstances. In this particular instance it was a second offence, and, as on the first occasion, accompanied by bloodshed under the direct and immediate order of the prisoner, and by the atrocity of attempting to incite an Indian warfare, the possible results of which the prisoner could and did thoroughly appreciate. In deciding upon the application for the commutation of the sentence passed upon the prisoner the Government were obliged to keep in view the need of exemplary and deterrent punishment for crime committed in a country situated in regard to settlement and population as are the North-West territories; the isolation and defenceless position of the settlers already there; the horrors to which they would be exposed in the event of an Indian outbreak; the effect upon intending settlers of any weakness in the administration of the law; and the consequences which must follow in such a country if it came to be believed that such crimes as Riel's could be committed, without incurring the extreme penalty of the law, by any one who was either subject to delusions or could lead people to believe that he was so subject. The crime of the prisoner was no constructive treason; it was accompanied by much bloodshed, inflicted by his own direct orders; and the Government have felt, upon a full and most earnest consideration of the case, that they would have been unworthy of the power with which they are intrusted by the whole people, and would have neglected their plain duty to all classes, had they interfered with the due execution of a sentence pronounced as the result of a just verdict and sanctioned by a righteous law."

IRELAND.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland has conferred the appointment of High Sheriff of the City of Limerick for the ensuing year upon Mr. O'Keefe, a Nationalist.

It is understood that Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., will sit in the new Parliament for the Scotland division of Liverpool; that Mr. T. M. Healy, M.P., will retain his seat for South Derry; Mr. Arthur O'Connor, M.P., his seat for East Donegal; and that Mr. E. D. Gray, M.P., will sit for the St. Stephen's-green division of Dublin. New elections will therefore take place for Carlow, North Monaghan, Galway borough, and the Ossory division of Queen's County.

Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Purvis Phayre, G.C.M.G., C.B., K.C.S.I., was found dead in bed at his lodgings in Bray, near Dublin, on Tuesday. He was seventy-three years of age. He served in the 7th Bengal Native Infantry and was a Lieutenant-Colonel on the Bengal Staff Corps. In 1866 he was appointed a Colonel in the Indian Army, becoming Major-General in 1871 and Lieutenant-General in 1877. Four years afterwards he was placed on the Unemployed Supernumerary List. Formerly he was British Commissioner for Arracan, and for many years he was Chief Commissioner in British Burmah, where he concluded many treaties with the King of Burmah. He was also from 1874 to 1878 Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Mauritius.

J. B. Thompson, a medical student, from Belfast, pleaded guilty last week at the Winter Assizes for Ulster, held at Omagh, county Tyrone, to the charge of uttering a forged certificate of matriculation in the Royal University of Ireland. Baron Dowse sentenced him to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour; the reasons for this comparatively moderate sentence being the state of the prisoner's health, and the fact that he had made important disclosures to the Public Prosecutor. The offence and its discovery were as follows:—Thompson forwarded, six months ago, to the branch Medical Council in Dublin what purported to be a certificate of having passed the matriculation examination of the Royal University in November, 1881. The attention of the registrar, Dr. Heard, was attracted by the date, "November." October has been the usual time with the Royal University for holding its matriculation examination; but its first examination was held in December, 1881. A further scrutiny revealed other discrepancies. The document was an excellent lithographed imitation of the lithographed forms on which the University issues its certificates, so that the parties to the transaction must have gone to the expense and trouble of forging the lithograph. A close examination of the genuine form and the forgery brought out several minute differences. The signatures of the secretaries of the University are attached to genuine certificates by means of an impressed stamp; but in this case the names were written in an ink resembling the genuine ink. Had the date been correct—and it could have been more easily ascertained—the forgery would most probably have escaped detection.

A murder is reported from the neighbourhood of Killarney. The crime was committed about three o'clock on Sunday afternoon, and the victim was a man named Patrick Rahilly, who was managing an evicted farm for Mr. John Leahy, at Knocksarknett. The man was evidently beaten to death with sticks, as two or three cudgels with blood-stains were found on the road near the place where he was murdered. Mr. Hilliard, a shopkeeper in Killarney, while driving along the road, discovered Rahilly, who was insensible and appeared to be dying. Doctors were sent for; but before they arrived the man was dead. A post-mortem examination showed that Rahilly's skull was fractured in three places, and there were cuts on his face which were evidently inflicted with knives. Rahilly for the last couple of years has been subjected to repeated outrage. He has been badly assaulted on more than one occasion, and a year ago his house was burned down. He had been under police protection until recently, when he asked to have the police removed.

One of the most desperate outrages that has taken place in Ireland for some time has just been reported. The scene of the outrage was the townland of Annacreary, about a mile and a half from Enniskerry. It appears that on Thursday night, after Mr. Thomas Burton and his family had retired to rest, Miss Burton was awakened by a noise, and on going to the window of her room she saw that a pony which had been in the stable had got loose and was roving about the farm-yard. She told her brother John, who hastily dressed himself and went out; but before he did so it was perceived that a large rick of hay and a large stack of oats (value £120) were on fire. John Burton sought assistance to put out the fire, when a large number of the neighbours collected; but, despite their exertions, both hay and corn were reduced to ashes and kept burning until the following day. When John Burton was sought for he could not be found, and it is supposed that he had met with foul play from those who set the stacks on fire. The whole county has been searched by his family, aided by the constabulary and a large number of people of the district, but to no purpose, although the search has been continued since yesterday week. Ponds and rivers have been dragged and woods and ditches have been searched. The motive for the outrage cannot be even guessed, as Mr. Burton and his family were most popular in the district.

The boycotting of the Cork Steam Packet Company by the cattle dealers of the south of Ireland has, a Cork correspondent says, taken an important turn during the past fortnight. Up to the last two weeks it was hoped that matters would mend, and that an amicable arrangement would ultimately be come to; but present appearances give little ground for entertaining such a hope. The cattle dealers have met with unlooked-for success by the chartering of three special steamers, and, encouraged by this success and the large monetary aid given by the National League branches throughout Munster, they have decided upon starting a rival company to the Steam Packet Company. The prospectus of the company will be issued in a few days, and the first issue of shares will be 50,000 at £1 each. The name of the company is to be the South of Ireland Cattle and Goods Co-operative Shipping Association. Special regulations have been made so that the company can refuse to ship boycotted cattle or goods belonging to landlords, &c. The company will be registered as carriers, not as common carriers, but only for the members of the company, and such other persons as the company by special regulations may admit to the privilege of membership, and for carrying as passengers those whom the company by special regulations may admit to the privilege of membership. The directorate will have the right of veto with regard to the persons who wish to be admitted as subscribers. They can refuse to allot shares to any person not eligible to be a member. The life of the Steam Packet Company is already threatened by the withdrawal of the cattle traffic, and should the proposed new company become a reality a very serious and grave question arises for the directors of the Steam Packet Company.

A magisterial investigation was held at Castleisland on Thursday week into the circumstances attending the raid for cattle at the house of a farmer named Lynn. The twenty-two persons who have been arrested were placed among a large number of others in the courthouse-yard for identification by the injured constables. Constable Maher first scanned the faces of the men and then accused Thomas Fitzgerald, Cornelius Crowley, and David Daly as being implicated in the attack. Constable Kennedy, the second policeman, was then called, but after carefully looking at the faces of all the men, he declared his inability to identify any of them as being connected with the attack. District Inspector Davis, on the part of the Crown, then annouced his intention of discharging the nineteen prisoners who had been arrested, and of placing the three prisoners identified on trial for the attack. Constable Maher, after detailing the circumstances already reported, added that Fitzgerald was one of the men who struck him with a gun while he was on the ground. He also identified Crowley and Daly as having attacked him. Dr. Harold deposed that Constable Maher was suffering from five scalp wounds, the palm of his hand was considerable torn, and he had several other contusions. The prisoners were returned for trial at the Munster Winter Assizes.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The Queen has been pleased to confer the Order of the Garter, vacant by the death of the Duke of Somerset, upon the Duke of Norfolk.

A Cabinet Council was held on Monday in Downing-street. The Ministers present were the Marquis of Salisbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Iddesleigh, the Earl of Carnarvon, Viscount Cranbrook, the Earl of Harrowby, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Richard A. Cross, Colonel the Hon. F. Stanley, the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, Lord Randolph Churchill, Lord George Hamilton, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Lord John Manners, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, and the Hon. Edward Stanhope. A second Cabinet Council was held on Tuesday.

Lord Henry Scott, who has been called to the peerage by the title of Baron Montagu, is the second son of the late Duke of Buccleuch, and was born at Dalkeith in 1832. He was educated at Eton, was appointed a captain of the Midlothian Yeomanry Cavalry in 1856, and was elected M.P. for Selkirkshire in 1861. Lord Henry married in 1865 the youngest daughter of the late Lord Wharncliffe. In 1868 he was elected M.P. for South Hants, which seat he resigned in June, 1884. Lord Elphinstone, who has been added to the peerage of the United Kingdom, is a Scotch Peer, and one of the representatives of the Barons of the northern kingdom in the late Parliament. He was born in 1828, succeeded his cousin in the title in 1861, and married a daughter of the Earl of Dunmore in 1864. The noble Lord is a retired naval captain, and has been a Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen. Lord Colville of Culross, upon whom a peerage of the United Kingdom has been conferred, was a Scotch representative Peer, and is Chamberlain to the Princess of Wales, and chairman of the Great Northern Railway Company. He was born in 1818, succeeded his uncle in 1849, and married in 1853 the eldest daughter of the late Lord Carrington.

The following letter has been written to Mr. Bosworth Smith by Lord Tennyson on the subject of his recent letters to the *Times* against Disestablishment:

"*December* 12.

"Dear Sir,—I thank you for your collected letters on the subject of Disestablishment. The letters, as they have reached me separately, I have read with the greatest interest. With you I believe that the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church would prelude the downfall of much that is greatest and best in England. Abuses there are, no doubt, in the Church, as elsewhere; but these are not past remedy. As to any 'vital changes in our Constitution,' I could wish that some of our prominent politicians who look to America as their ideal might borrow from her an equivalent to that conservatively restrictive provision under the fifth article of her Constitution. I believe it would be a great safeguard to our own in these days of ignorant and reckless theorists.

"I am, yours truly,

"R. Bosworth Smith, Esq." "Tennyson.

Mr. Akers-Douglas, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, speaking at the annual dinner of the Ashford Cattle Show on Tuesday night, observed that they had heard of late all sorts of proposals made as to how the agricultural industries were to prosper in the future. He did not anticipate any great benefit from the greater division of land from a social point of view; from a landowner's point of view there was nothing he should so much desire; but he had still to learn that, when men of experience were unable to make farms of 200, 300, and 600 acres pay, men would succeed with 10 or 12 acres. Small holdings were undoubtedly successful where there was a large market town within easy distance, as proved by Lord Tollemache, who, however, made it a condition that any one who occupied his small holdings must have some other business. He trusted that in the new Parliament the proposals to free the land from unequal taxation would be brought forward, and that he, as a humble supporter of Her Majesty's Government, would have the pleasure of taking part in the discussion of Bills which he knew they intended to introduce for the cheaper transfer of land.

The Earl of March, M.P., responding on Monday evening at the annual dinner in connection with the Steyning Fat Stock Show to the toast of "The Sussex County Members," said the result of the recent election had been scanned very closely, because all, Liberal and Conservative alike, had seen with regret the extraordinary increase in the number of Nationalists returned, a circumstance which he was afraid must make the government of this country a matter of enormous difficulty. There would be an enormous temptation held out, when there was so small a majority, to catch the Irish vote, and by the catching of that vote giving one party the preponderance. He would undertake to say, speaking as a member of the Conservative party, that there must be no admission made to the Irish members which would tend at all in the direction of breaking the connection between Ireland and Great Britain. That was a point which could not be too strongly urged, because, as he gathered from the speeches of Mr. Parnell and of his followers, they would be satisfied with no proposal for local self-government that did not include a Parliament of their own in Dublin; but to any such proposal he should give his most strenuous opposition. The county members for Sussex would remember that they were English men and Sussex men, and would oppose any proposal that would tend to the dismemberment of the empire.

Sir Charles Warren, in responding to the toast of his health, proposed by the Mayor of Southampton at a banquet given on the occasion of the presentation of prizes to the Hants Artillery Volunteers, said that there could be no doubt about it that, two years ago, there was the greatest anxiety lest South Africa should be cut off from this country, and he was firmly of opinion that if things had gone on as they were going the Africander Bund would have grown to such a head that things would not have been settled unless an enormous expedition had been sent out from this country. A great deal was to be done with regard to local administration. One of the wisest administrators that ever governed South Africa—Sir B. Frere—foresaw the difficulties and brought forward the matter in 1878. Sir Bartle foresaw the difficulties that were going to occur in Bechuanaland. It was always said we were the dominant Power in the land, and that all that was wanted with regard to the natives was that their route should be preserved into the interior. Sir Bartle Frere pointed out that virtually we exercised a protectorate over these tribes, and proposed to put a Resident there to protect them against Boer aggression, and during the last year we had had to carry out what he proposed to do in 1878, at a cost of nearly a million of money, though it could have been done then at a very small cost. The gallant Colonel then proceeded to give his hearers a sketch of the difficulties of the problem in Bechuanaland. They were, he said, not finished yet. He traced Mr. Mackenzie's recall to the efforts of the land-jobbers, but he showed that though the present Resident was in effect carrying out his policy, matters of grave consideration might arise, so it was quite possible the filibusters might come back and claim, under the Cape law, the land from which they had been turned out. The people of the Cape Colony felt very much aggrieved at the impression prevailing in this country that they wanted wars, and did everything they could to induce England to send troops out. That impression was quite unfounded. So far as his own experiences went, only a certain number wanted it, just as a number of speculators in this country wanted it also; but they did not represent the whole country, and the way in which he was everywhere received proved the truth of this. They were proud of the work having been done without bloodshed. When he went out the country was just on the verge of civil war, and it was not the slightest use for people to try and make out that was

not the case. They felt very much the advantage of the country having been united to Bechuanaland, without bloodshed. They told him over and over again they wanted the country to be united, that they did not want wars, and that if they were to go ahead they must have peace throughout their borders. It was almost impossible in this country to distinguish between the different interests that were put forward here in regard to South Africa, and this increased the difficulty of forming a fair judgment of the condition of affairs in the Colony.

Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough, at a numerously attended meeting held under the presidency of Sir Henry T. Holland, M.P., at the International College, Finchley-road, Hampstead, inaugurated on Monday a Dames' Branch of the Hampstead (Pitt) Habitation of the Primrose League. Sir HENRY HOLLAND, honorary ruling councillor, in opening the proceedings, congratulated her Grace on the fact that it was due to her son, Lord Randolph Churchill, that this great League had been founded. He founded it partly in memory of that great statesman Lord Beaconsfield. Mr. W. NASH, the hon. secretary of the Habitation, then gave an account of the objects and principles of the League. The Duchess of MARLBOROUGH, who was received with loud cheers, said she had neither the will nor the power to make a long speech on the present occasion. She should not have consented to take part in that evening's proceedings did she not feel that if one could do anything to strengthen the interests of the country it would be selfish and wrong not to come forward and do what one could for the good cause. In regard to the anxious and stirring times that the country had recently passed through, she, as one of the earliest members of the Primrose League, had to rejoice at the good work which it was generally admitted this League had done. It was impossible for any one who had watched the elections with intelligent interest not to acknowledge that the Primrose League was capable of becoming a great power in the State and of doing an enormous amount of good in aid of constitutionalism. No one who had not witnessed, as she had done, the turmoil and labour of a contested election, especially as she did at Birmingham, could realise the intense relief it was to a candidate to have a band of voluntary canvassers pledged to work for him and throwing themselves into his service with a zeal which no paid services could secure. All the members of the League should try to emulate the indomitable energy and perseverance of that great statesman in whose honour the Primrose League was established.

Sir CHARLES DILKE, addressing a meeting in Chelsea on Monday evening, called to congratulate Mr. Leicester, a working man, on his election for West Ham, said he believed the legislation proposed in the new Parliament—unless Parliament were broken up and they were driven again to the constituencies—would be based on Mr. Gladstone's programme. The electors of Great Britain had decided in favour of the Liberal programme, which would have to be carried out by any Government that was in office. The Liberals would be quite strong enough to prevent the Conservatives doing any harm, but he thought it would be wiser for the Liberal party to remain in Opposition rather than take office without possessing a strong majority.

Sir CHARLES DILKE, addressing a meeting of the Cheyne Ward Committee of Chelsea on Thursday evening, referred to the report that the Government intended to ask for a vote of want of confidence, observing that this could not be granted by the Liberal party. Their offer was to let the Government proceed on sufferance, and that offer, he learnt from a speech of a member of the Government, had been rejected. He reminded the electors of the scheme he had put before them of decentralisation for Ireland, stating that he continued to adhere to it.

A banquet was given at Birmingham on Thursday night to celebrate the return of seven Liberal members. Mr. Bright was kept away by a cold. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to the toast of "The Seven Members," said there would be no great eagerness in the Liberal party to turn the Tories out. It would, however, be the duty of the Liberals to turn out the Tory Government at the earliest possible moment when they could feel assured of replacing it with a Liberal Government with a large majority at its back. They must not have a Liberal Government holding office at Mr. Parnell's mercy. If there was to be co-operation between Liberals and the Irish party, it must be founded on common interests which could be publicly avowed and defended. He denied having entered into any negotiations with Mr. Parnell, and agreed with Mr. Gladstone's declaration that the first duty of Liberals was to maintain the integrity of the Empire and the supremacy of the Crown. Subject to that he would grant the largest measure of local government.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, the Prime Minister of Canada, was on Thursday afternoon presented with the freedom and livery of the Turners' Company, in recognition of "the eminent services rendered by him to the British possessions in North America in promoting their political confederation as the Dominion of Canada, and in successfully accomplishing their physical union by the recent completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway." The ceremony took place in the old Council Chamber of the Guildhall, the master of the Company (Mr. S. G. Bake) presiding. Sir JOHN MACDONALD, in replying, said the Canadians considered with pride that they were British subjects, and believed that they had a right to share in the glories of the Empire. While Canadians they felt they were also Englishmen, and formed a portion of that great monarchy—the greatest the world had ever seen. They were proud to be under the shadow of the monarchy and to call Queen Victoria their Queen, and they believed that the best interests of the provinces composing the Dominion were involved in the perpetual connection of that Dominion with the mother country.

Colonel WALROND, M.P., speaking at Tiverton on Tuesday, contended that since Lord Salisbury had been in office he had restored the confidence of the Foreign Powers in England. The Prime Minister would meet Parliament with a moderate programme, to carry which he would rely on the aid of the Moderate Liberals. Failing this, there would be no other alternative for the Ministry than to resign. Nothing of a revolutionary character would be proposed for Ireland, as the Conservative party recognised above all things the supreme importance of maintaining the unity of the Empire.

In replying to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," at the house dinner of the City Constitutional Club on Wednesday night, Baron H. DE WORMS, Secretary to the Board of Trade, remarked that scarcely ever in the history of the country had any crisis been more acute or dangerous than the present, and they had to consider whether the line which the Conservative Government would unquestionably adopt was best fitted to the interests of the country. In the Manifesto of Mr. Gladstone no policy was laid down. His cry was simply for the unity of the Liberal party, in order that they should have a superiority over the Irish vote. But in this he had most signally failed; while, if the report was true, negotiations were going on between the ex-Prime Minister and the Irish party. This had been denied in many quarters; but it happened that there went forth from Hawarden a letter, written by the youngest and most irresponsible of the members of the family and if that letter did not represent the views of Mr. Gladstone, certainly the right hon. gentleman has since had ample time to repudiate it. It seemed, however, to be more convenient to rest for a moment on the irresponsibility of the younger scion of the House of Gladstone. The Government has been taunted with having received the vote of the Parnellite party; but there was a great difference between receiving such a vote and courting it; and he was prepared to say, speaking officially, to state that neither directly nor indirectly had the Government courted the support of the Parnellite party. Turning then to the programme of the Conservative party, the Chairman observed that every word uttered by Lord Salisbury at Newport represented clearly and truly that programme, and that the Conservative party would stand or fall by it. The first and foremost of their measures would be the question of the tenure, and particularly the sale of land. Local self-government was also a question which was receiving their consideration. With regard to the Irish question, so long as that was in its present state, involved in bitter religious bigotry and hatred on the one hand, and open avowed sedition on the other, it would be extremely difficult for any Government, Liberal or Conservative, to deal with it satisfactorily. But looking at the proposals of those who were authorised to speak in the name of the Irish National party—namely, that Ireland should have a Parliament sitting in Dublin to deal with questions affecting the fiscal arrangements of the country, thus involving the responsibility of Ireland towards the National Debt, the introduction of a system of protective duties as against English manufactures, and the local control of the police of the country—he hesitated not to say that any party, whether in or out of power, who contemplated the establishment of such a system as that would be unworthy the confidence of the country, and certainly, so far as the Conservative party were concerned, such proposals would not be considered or listened to by them. If that was to be the price at which the Irish vote was to be bought in the House of Commons, he pitied the buyers, because, though they might secure the triumph of a party division, it would be but a Pyrrhic victory. The Conservative party would concede all that could in common justice be demanded, and in the interest of both countries could be required, but they would concede nothing that would only be given in the interests of party and not in the interests of the Empire. If, then, the Liberals endeavoured to regain power by concluding a second edition of the Treaty of Kilmainham, the result would be that their tenure of office and their position in the country would be so endangered that it would take years to wipe out the stain of such a policy, and more years still to reinstate them in the confidence of the electors whose faith they had abused.

Mr. COWEN, M.P. for Newcastle-on-Tyne, remarked on Wednesday to a representative of the Central News that when the House of Commons meets in January he believed there would be no serious difficulty. The most advanced section of the Liberals were not favourable to putting the Government out of office; they would prefer to let them remain in power and submit their measures, as the Opposition would be sufficiently powerful to uphold the Bills more or less to their wishes. He was, nevertheless, of opinion that the Government would be put out of office very shortly after the business of the session began. He should regret this, because he believed the domestic legislation the Government intended to propose would be of a progressive kind; nevertheless party exigencies and party rivalry would contribute to produce their fall. The anti-Irish Tories would be strong enough to prevent their party from promulgating any scheme of self-government that would be at all likely to be successful in Ireland. The Liberals were more likely to formulate a scheme that would be acceptable to Ireland; but he was not at all sanguine about their doing so. If Mr. Gladstone was in earnest, and the rank-and-file of the Liberal party supported him, under his guidance and with their help a scheme for Home Rule would pass the House of Commons. The Irish Home Rulers would probably take it, if passed, and they would use the power it conferred to exact the full measure of what they were by justice and right entitled to. While they might look forward to a scheme of Home Rule being proposed by the Liberals, they could not anticipate its being carried, and it was in every way likely that in the course of eighteen months or less there would be a dissolution, and a direct appeal to the constituencies to pronounce for or against a project of Home Rule for Ireland.

Sir Edward Sullivan answers the arithmetic of Mr. Gladstone and the *Daily News* with some mathematical studies calculated still further to depress the depressed party in Opposition. He shows, first, that in England and Wales the Liberal majority has decreased from 14 per cent. to 5 per cent. between 1880 and 1885; that in Scotland it has only increased 2,800, while the number of Scotch voters has increased by 167,000; and that in Ireland a Liberal majority (over the Conservatives) of 50,000 has been converted into a Conservative majority (over the Liberals) of 75,000. If all parties could be represented with scientific accuracy in the House of Commons the Conservative score in England, Scotland, and Ireland should be very close indeed behind that of the Liberals and Radicals. The Parnellites would find their number reduced by just one-half. Sir Edward Sullivan reminds us that in spite of all the terrorism and indirect pressure brought to bear, and in spite of large numbers of abstentions in places where their cause was clearly hopeless, the vote of the Loyalists at the recent elections came to half that of the Nationalists.

Mr. J. G. Hubbard, M.P., in a letter to the *Times*, takes Sir William Harcourt to task for what he said in that paper with reference to the action of the clergy during the elections. He writes:—"Surely it is ungenerous of Sir William Harcourt to denounce the clergy for the part they have taken in the recent elections, when, for their justification, if it were needed, they could refer to his own authority. On May 16, 1873, when opposing Mr. E. Miall's motion for Disestablishment, Sir William Harcourt described that motion 'as being in effect a proposal to overturn the entire fabric of the Constitution,' resting, as it did, on the Act for the Further Limitation of the Crown (A.D. 1700), which ran in these terms:—'Whereas it is requisite and necessary that further provision be made for securing our religious laws and liberties, ... Be it enacted, that whosoever shall come to the possession of this Crown shall join in communion with the Church of England as by law established;' and he asked Mr. Miall whether he meant to maintain the Protestant settlement of the Crown, and, if so, how did he mean to reconcile it with those doctrines of religious equality upon which he had enlarged? For more than forty years the Liberationist Society, founded by Mr. E. Miall, has been vigorously prosecuting the disestablishment of the Church of England under the cry of religious equality, involving the consequences exposed by Sir William Harcourt, and creating a dilemma for Liberationists which they to this day have not dared to deal with and cannot remove without, as Sir William Harcourt says, 'overturning the entire fabric of the Constitution.' The Liberation Society has made Disestablishment an electoral test throughout the country, and, in view of the misleading influences exercised ever the new constituencies, the Archbishop of Canterbury gave his sanction and encouragement to the efforts of the clergy to acquaint their parishioners with the origin and nature of the Church, of its growth in this country, of its means of maintenance, and of the relative duties of clergy and people. Sir William Harcourt should blame the clergy, not for the part they have taken now in the instruction of their parishioners, but for not having taken it earlier. He is especially unjust in ascribing their recent zeal to their allying themselves with a political party when it can be shown that their zeal has been evoked and directed by their spiritual chief, and when the dangers which they have to combat have been conspicuously exhibited by so eminent a legal authority as the late Home Secretary. The enlightenment of the county constituencies may need time, but it can and must be done; and meanwhile the cry of religious equality must be answered by the challenge, 'If to attain religious equality you despoil the Crown of its religious sanction, can you stop short of a Republic?'"

In the course of a statement which Mr. Bradlaugh has made as to his intentions on the assembling of the new Parliament on the 12th of January he says:—"I shall attend Parliament with all the other members at the earliest possible moment on its assembling. If there be a contest for the election of Speaker I shall take part in it, and as to the other formalities for taking my seat I shall seek to fulfil them in all accordance with the law and the practice of Parliament, which I contend I have never broken. Every statement, however, which has appeared as to when I intend to present myself at the table of the House is absolutely unauthorised. I have carefully refrained from making any declaration on that subject even to my own constituents. I am in the same position as every other lawfully returned member. I have heard of no petition being presented against my return, so that the statement that Mr. Richards, who contested the seat, intends to claim it in the event of a hostile vote, is simply ridiculous. With regard to my legal position, the statement which has gone forth that the highest Court of Appeal has decided that I am not entitled to take the oath is totally incorrect. In the first place, the highest Court of Appeal is the House of Lords, to which Court the decision of the Court of Appeal is being carried, and I believe the decision of that Court of Appeal will be reversed. I have succeeded in the House of Lords before, and have great confidence I shall do so on this occasion. But, again, the decision of the Court of Appeal, as delivered, had relation only to the special answers given by a jury, all of which related to the date of February 11, 1884, these in part answering the question of whether the oath was taken in defiance of the Speaker and the orders of the House, and in part as to the state of my belief on that 11th of February. In order to test whether the oath can be well taken in the new Parliament by myself, the facts appertaining to the day of taking it would have to be submitted to another jury in another trial instituted by the Attorney-General, and the state of my mind would have to be the subject of fresh evidence, which the jury might or might not think conclusive, whether for or against me. And I would add, if theological opinion falls into the same came category as political opinion, I have the very high authority of the Secretary of State for India (Lord Randolph Churchill), who says that when unexpected events occur the practical politician cannot be expected to adhere strictly to the views he has expressed some weeks before."

The Crown Princess of Denmark, who was present at several meetings of the international conference of the Evangelical Alliance, held in Copenhagen last year, has been pleased to receive a copy of the English volume reporting the proceedings. In the letter of acknowledgment, addressed to the secretary of the British organisation, the Comptroller of the Royal Household says:—"Her Royal Highness thanks you for your kindness in sending the volume, and also for the copies, in Swedish and Norwegian, of the address of the Rev. William Arthur on 'The Divinity and Atonement of Christ.' Her Royal Highness is still in hearty sympathy with Christian work, and she will assuredly take great interest in the perusal of the books."

Painted windows as a memorial of departed worth and gallantry have an interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor has at all times pleasure in showing his works in progress, both for church and hall, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates sent. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London, W.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

An analysis of the Parliament about to assemble shows that of the 668 members returned, 313 were members of the late Parliament, and that 355 may be considered new members. Great Britain returns 267 old and 298 new members. Ireland returns 46 old and 57 who are new to Parliamentary life. The following is an analysis of the various professions and mercantile positions of the 668 members at present elected: Bankers, 25; barristers (in or out of practice) and Q.C.'s, 110; brewers and distillers, 24; builders and architects, 6; civil and mining engineers, 6; colliery proprietors, 16; crofters' representatives, 5; diplomatists and Government officials, 23; estate and life assurance agents, 4; farmers and agriculturists, 12; gentry and landowners, 71; labour representatives, 12; manufacturers, 69; members of the medical profession 16; merchants, 42; ministers of religion (retired), 2; newspaper proprietors and journalists, 34; professions not stated, 9; printers and booksellers, 6; professors of Universities and economists, 9; solicitors, in or out of practice, 23; sons and brothers of peers, 46; ship owners and builders, 21; stockbrokers, 6; tradesmen (various), 17. Army and Navy List.—Generals and major-generals, 6; colonels and lieutenant-colonels, 20; majors, captains, and lieutenants, 21; naval officers, 7.

One or two features in the late elections deserve notice. The brewers and distillers have largely increased their representatives, many who were defeated in the last Parliament being returned. They are as follows: S. C. Allsopp, Taunton; G. H. Allsopp, Worcester; T. W. Boord, Greenwich; H. Bonsor, Wimbledon Division; H. Bullard, Norwich; Sir Michael Bass, Bart., Burton; Hamar A. Bass, West Staffordshire; E. N. Buxton, Walthamstow Division; S. Charrington, Mile-end; F. T. Cobbold, Stowmarket Division; O. E. Coope, Brentford Division; J. T. Agg-Gardner, Cheltenham; Sir G. Greenall, Bart., Warrington; A. W. Hall, Oxford; Seager Hunt, Marylebone; Right Hon. James Stansfeld, Halifax; Francis Taylor, South Norfolk; H. Wardle, South Derbyshire; S. Whitbread, Bedford. The representatives of labour have quadrupled in number, and are as follows: W. Abraham, Rhondda Valley; Joseph Arch, West Norfolk; Henry Broadhurst, Birmingham; Thomas Burt, Morpeth; W. Crawford, Mid-Durham; C. Fenwick, Wansbeck Division; J. C. Durant, Stepney; W. R. Cremer, Haggerston; George Howell, Bethnal-green; Joseph Leicester, West Ham; Benjamin Pickard, Normanton; J. Wilson, Houghton-le-Spring. There is also a large increase of the representatives of the metropolitan and provincial press, chief of whom are the following:—For Great Britain—Sir Algernon Borthwick, Dr. Cameron, Leonard Courtney, Joseph Cowen, J. H. Heaton, W. Ingram, H. Labouchere, J. A. MacLean, John Morley, George Newnes, Sir H. Meysey-Thompson, J. A. Picton, H. T. Reid, E. R. Russell, William Saunders, Samuel Storey, and J. Woodhead. For Ireland: J. J. Clancy, D. Crilly, E. D. Gray, E. Harrington, T. Harrington, L. P. Hayden, J. Hooper, Justin McCarthy, J. H. McCarthy, Arthur O'Connor, T. P. O'Connor, W. O'Brien, J. O'Kelly, T. Sexton, D. Sullivan, and T. D. Sullivan. The medical profession has among its representatives Dr. Cameron, Dr. Clark, J. B. Dillon, Dr. Farquharson, Dr. Foster, Dr. Fox, Sir Guy Hunter, Dr. Kenny, Dr. Macdonald, Dr. Pilkington, Dr. O'Doherty, Dr. Tanner, Sir J. Trevor-Lawrence, and Philip Vanderbyl. The supporters of the Fair Trade party in the last Parliament were the Right Hon. James Lowther, William Ecroyd, Coleridge J. Kennard, Sampson S. Lloyd, and W. J. Harris. All have been rejected by their constituents, and the new Parliament will therefore not have a single representative of the Protectionist party.

In the new Parliament 111 members hail from Oxford, of whom 37 are from Christ Church; while 82 are Cambridge men, of which no fewer than 52 are claimed by Trinity College. Of the six public schools, Eton has the largest number of representatives—72; Harrow comes next with 46, then Rugby with 27, followed by Westminster and Winchester with eight each, and Charterhouse with four. Dublin and London Universities and the modern schools, as Marlborough, Clifton, and others, have representatives in the House.

Although the new House certainly will contain some new names, many of the old historic and great Parliamentary families will (the *Times* remarks) be well represented. To deal merely with numbers, the Hamiltons lead the way with six representatives, four being the sons of the Duke of Abercorn. With one exception, the Hamiltons are Conservative, and the exception, it need hardly be said, is a Scotch representative. There are also six Wilsons, all Liberals. Next come five Campbells—six if Campbell-Bannerman is counted—two of them Liberals, two Conservatives, and one an Irish Nationalist. There are four Balfours, four O'Connors, four Howards, four Smiths, three Aclands, three Corbetts, three Davieses, three Egertons, three Ellises, three Fergusons, three Jameses, three Kennys, three Lawrences, three Morgans, three O'Briens, three Peases, three Robertsons, three Russells, and three Williamses. The following names occur twice in the new Parliamentary roll:—Abraham, Allen, Allsopp, Bass, Beach, Beresford, Blaine, Bolton, Bright, Cameron, Chamberlain, Clarke, Cohen, Crawford, Crossley, Denison, Dixon, Elliot, Farquharson, Finch, Fletcher, Forster, Fowler, Fraser, Fry, Gardner, Gill, Gladstone, Grey, Hall, Harcourt, Hardcastle, Harrington, Healy, Hill, Holden, Hughes, Hunter, Jenkins, M'Carthy, Macdonald, Maclean, Morley, Nolan, O'Doherty, Paget, Peel, Powell, Power, Price, Redmond, Roberts, Sidebottom, Stevenson, Sullivan, Talbot, Watson, and West. These duplicate names account for nearly 200 members. The well-known Parliamentary names, in addition to those which will be readily recognised in the above list, are, to quote a few—Barttelot, Bective, Bentinck, Bethell, Blundell, Bruce, Cameron, Cavendish, Chaplin, Coleridge, Cowen, Cross, Dawnay, Fitzwilliam, Glyn, Gibson, Grosvenor, Labouchere, Lowther, Lubbock, Peel, Plunket, Manners, Stanley, and Villiers. There are nineteen members with the prefix of "Mac" and thirteen with the still more Celtic prefix of "O." The illustrious name of Gordon disappears from the new House—a strange coincidence considering the memories which surround the name and how frequently it has been on the Parliamentary tongue in recent years. It will be

observed that there are now only two Gladstones, as against three in the last House, while the great Parliamentary names of Russell and Peel hold their own. Ulster gives the House the uncommon name of De Cobain, and Westmeath gives the certainly un-Irish name of Tuite. In the last Parliament the brothers Redmond were conspicuous in the Parnellite quarter; but next session there will be a whole band of brothers—the brothers Harrington, Sullivan, Healy, Kenny, and Gill. Though the Hibernian names are very prominent, there is only one Murphy. What can the Murphys have done to merit Mr. Parnell's scorn? Only one Cross is left; but there are two Crossleys and one Crossman. There is one Will, three Williamses, one Thomas, one Henry, one Richard, one Johns, two Roberts, three Jameses, and three Davies; while there is one Green, one Brown, two Greys, and one White. There is a Long, and a Round, and a Biggar. While there are four Smiths, there is only one Jones and one Robinson. Again, there is a Fox, an Otter, a Peacock, a Roe, and a Finch. There are two Beaches, a Grove, a Pyne, a Flower, a Reed, and a Leake; and, in addition to two Hills, there is a Dyke, a Lane, a Field, and a Temple, but only one instead of three Akers. The new House, like the last, would not be safe without a Tyler or genuine without a Brand, or able to proceed to business without its two Clarkes; and, as it is to be short-lived, it is proper that there should be a Sexton. The new House, it will also be observed from the list of the new Parliament, will contain three Cooks and two Frys, two Taylors, one Tanner, two Gardners, one Trotter, two Hunters, and two Fowlers; and, finally, it supplies a King.

There is, the *Times* says, great rejoicing in Roman Catholic circles at the unprecedentedly large number of representatives of that faith returned to the House of Commons at the late general election, there being not fewer than 83 Roman Catholic members of Parliament, whereas there were only 60 in the late Parliament. As was to be expected, Ireland contributes the major portion, numbering 79; England three—viz., Mr. T. P. O'Connor for the Scotland Division of Liverpool; Mr. Charles Russell, Q.C., for South Hackney; and Colonel Blundell (a member of an old Lancashire Catholic family) for the Ince Division. But the return of a Roman Catholic member for a constituency in Scotland, in the person of Mr. D. H. Macfarlane (the late member for the county of Carlow) for Argyleshire, is hailed as the greatest triumph of all, Mr. Macfarlane being the first and only Roman Catholic member of the Legislature returned by Scotland since the Reformation. In the late Parliament, Mr. H. Jerningham, M.P. for the borough of Berwick-on-Tweed, was the only member professing the Roman Catholic faith returned for a constituency outside of Ireland. It is a strange thing that, although the Catholic Emancipation Bill was passed in 1829, very few members of that faith have succeeded in holding seats for English constituencies. Among them, however, have been the Earl of Surrey (afterwards the 13th Duke of Norfolk), for Horsham and West Sussex, in 1829-41; Mr. Edward Blount, for Steyning, in the same county, from 1830 to 1832; Mr. Charles Langdale, for Beverley, in 1832-34, and again for Knaresborough from 1837 to 1841; Mr. William Blount, for Totnes, by a double return, in 1839-40; Mr. Philip Howard, of Corby Castle, for Carlisle, from 1830 to 1847, and again from 1849 to 1852; Lord Arundel and Surrey (subsequently 14th Duke of Norfolk), for Arundel, in 1837-51; Sir John Simeon, for the Isle of Wight, from 1847 to 1852; Mr. John Towneley, for Beverley, in 1841-52; Mr. Thomas Stonor (afterwards Lord Camoys), for Oxford city, in 1832-33; Lord Edward Howard (subsequently Lord Howard of Glossop), for Horsham and Arundel, from 1848 to 1868; Mr. Charles Standish, for Wigan, in 1837-47; Sir William Massey Stanley, for Pontefract, from 1837 to 1841; the Hon. Edward P. Petre, for York, from 1832 to 1834; the Hon. Henry Stafford Jerningham, for Pontefract, in 1832-34; Sir R. Throckmorton, for Berkshire, from 1832 to 1834; the Hon. John Stapleton, for Berwick-on-Tweed, in 1837-58, and from 1868 to 1874; and Mr. Edward J. Hutchins, for Penryn and Falmouth, in 1840-41, and for Lymington from 1851 to 1856.

THE POPE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

The Pope has addressed to the Cardinal Archbishop and Roman Catholic Bishops of England a letter on Religious Education, in which he says:—

"Your proved fidelity and singular devotion to this Apostolic See are admirably shown in the letter which we have lately received from you. Our pleasure in receiving it is, indeed, increased by the further knowledge which it gives us of your great vigilance and anxiety in a matter where no care can be too great—we mean the Christian education of your children, upon which you have lately taken counsel together and have reported to us the decisions to which you came.

"In this work of so great moment, venerable brethren, we rejoice much to see that you do not work alone, for we know how much is due to the whole body of your clergy. With the greatest charity, and with unconquered efforts, they have provided schools for their children, and with wonderful diligence and assiduity they endeavour by their teaching to form them to a Christian life, and to instruct them in the elements of knowledge. Wherefore, with all the encouragement and praise that our voice can give, we bid your clergy to go on in their meritorious work, and to be assured of our special commendation and goodwill, looking forward to a far greater reward from Our Lord God, for Whose sake they are labouring.

"Not less worthy of commendation is the generosity of Catholics in this matter. We know how readily they supply what is needed for the maintenance of schools; not only those who are wealthy, but those who are of slender means and poor; and it is beautiful to see how, often from the earnings of their poverty, they willingly contribute to the education of children.

"In these days, and in the present condition of the world, when the tender age of childhood is threatened on every side by so many and such various dangers, hardly anything can be imagined more fitting than the union with literary instruction of sound teaching in faith and morals. For this reason we have more than once said that we strongly approve the Voluntary schools which, by the work and liberality of private individuals, have been established in France, Belgium, America, and the colonies of the British Empire. We desire their increase as much as possible, and that they may flourish in the number of their scholars. We ourselves also, seeing the condition of things in this city, continue, with the greatest effort and at great cost, to provide an abundance of such schools for the children of Rome. For it is in and by these schools that the Catholic faith, our greatest and best inheritance, is preserved whole and entire. In these schools the liberty of parents is respected, and, what is most needed, especially in the prevailing licence of opinion and of action, it is by these schools that good citizens are brought up for the State, for there is no better citizen than the man who has believed and practised the Christian faith from his childhood. The beginning and, as it were, the seed of that human perfection which Jesus Christ gave to mankind are to be found in the Christian education of the young, for the future condition of the State depends upon the early training of its children. The wisdom of our forefathers and the very foundations of the State are ruined by the destructive error of those who would have children brought up without religious education. You see, therefore, venerable brethren, with what earnest forethought parents must beware of intrusting their children to schools in which they cannot receive religious education.

"In your country of Great Britain we know that, besides yourselves, very many of your nation are not a little anxious about religious education. They do not in all things agree with us; nevertheless, they see how important, for the sake both of society and of men individually, is the preservation of that Christian wisdom which your forefathers received, through St. Augustine, from our predecessor, Gregory the Great, which wisdom the violent tempests that came afterwards have not entirely scattered. There are, as we know, at this day many of an excellent disposition of mind who are diligently striving to retain what they can of the ancient faith, and who bring forth many and great fruits of charity. As often as we think of this, so often are we deeply moved, for we love with a paternal charity that island which was not undeservedly called the mother of saints; and we see in the disposition of mind of which we have spoken the greatest hope and, as it were, a pledge of the welfare and prosperity of the British people.

"Go on, therefore, venerable brethren, in making the young your chief care; press onward in every way your episcopal work; and cultivate with alacrity and hopefulness whatever good seeds you find; for God, who is rich in mercy, will give the increase.

"As a pledge of gifts from above, and in witness of our goodwill, we lovingly grant in the Lord to you, and to the clergy and people committed to each one of you, the Apostolic benediction."

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. W. E. Allfree, Vicar of Narburgh, Norfolk, to Rectory of Upton-cum-Copmanford, Hunts. Patron, the Duke of Buccleuch.

Canon Andrew, Vicar of Tideswell, to be Rural Dean of Buxton.

Rev. J. G. Barnsdale, Weymouth, to be Licensed to Preach and Officiate generally in the Diocese of Salisbury.

Rev. T. Bridge, to be Perpetual Curate of St. George's, Poynton. Patron, Lord Vernon.

Rev. E. F. Cavalier, to Rectory of Wramplingham, Norfolk. Patron, the Rev. H. P. Marsham, of Rippon Hall, Hevingham.

Rev. J. C. Duncan, to be Chaplain to the Hospitals of St. Mary Magdalene and St. John-the-Baptist, Ripon.

Rev. J. B. Eccleston, to Vicarage of Brize Norton, Oxon. Patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford.

Rev. P. Sykyn, Vicar of St. Albans, Bristol, to Rectory of Magor-with-Redwick. Patron, the Duke of Beaufort.

Rev. E. de Ewer, to Vicarage of Long-grove. Patrons, Mr. J. P. Martineau and Mr. C. S. Bosanquet.

Rev. R. H. Harris, Curate of St. Matthew's, Leicester, to be Inspector of Schools for the Diocese of Truro.

Rev. R. V. Hodge, to Vicarage of Middleton, Warwickshire. Patron, Lord Middleton.

Ven. F. Lear, Archdeacon of Sarum, to be Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury.

Rev. A. M. MacKay, Senior Curate of St. John's, Fitzroy-square, to be Minister of St. James's English Episcopal Church, Aberdeen. Patrons, the Trustees.

Ven. B. Maltby, Vicar of Farndon, Archdeacon of Nottingham, to be Surrogate for the Diocese of Southwell.

Rev. W. A. Moberly, to be Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury.

Rev. J. Morris, to Rectory of Narberth with the Chapelry of Robeston-Wathen, Pembrokeshire. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. P. Neale, Curate-in-Charge of Ashchurch, near Tewkesbury, to be Chaplain to the Royal Society of St. Anne's, London.

Rev. R. E. Ricketts, to be Domestic Chaplain to the Earl of Zetland.

Rev. C. D. Russell, Clerical Secretary and Superintendent of the London Diocesan Home Mission, to Rectory of Bleadon, near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. Patron, the Bishop of London.

Rev. T. D. Sherlock, late Vicar of Ingleton, to be Chaplain of Christ Church, Mexico.

Rev. J. H. R. Shill, to Curate-in-Charge of Thornham, to Vicarage of St. George's, Unsworth. Patron, the Rector of Prestwich.

Rev. J. Stockdale, Vicar of Baslow, Chesterfield, to be Surrogate for the Diocese of Southwell.

Rev. I. W. Tapper, Vicar of Stapleford, Nottingham, to be Surrogate for the Diocese of Southwell.

Rev. G. H. Trehearne, to be Chaplain to the *Malabar*.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—Revs. H. J. G. Beloe, to St. Barnabas's, Homerton; H. C. Deane, to St. Martin's-in-the-Field's; T. Doughty, to St. Saviour's, Fitzroy-square; R. W. Enraght, to St. Michael and All Angels', Bromley; D. F. Heywood, to St. Vedast's, Foster-lane; W. P. M'Donald, to South Hackney; T. Robson, to Christ Church, Ealing; B. D. D. Shaw, to Friern Barnet; A. Walker, to St. Barnabas's, King's-square; F. H. Waller, to St. James's, Holloway.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.—Revs. Frederick Clacy Hibbard, M.A., to Pulham St. Mary-the-Virgin; George William Hill, to Horsford; James Abbott Lloyd, M.A., to St. Margaret and St. Nicholas, King's Lynn; William Merrin, B.A., to Walpole St. Peter's; Samuel Sinn Skeen, to Hardingham.

OBITUARY.

Dec. 4, at Dumpton-grove, Ramsgate, the Rev. Samuel Allen, Chaplain to the Hastings Cemetery, aged 59.

Dec. 8, at Warmley Vicarage, near Bristol, the Rev. Thomas Howard, M.A., Vicar of the parish, aged 81.

Dec. 10, at Aghaderg Glebe, Loughbrickland, county Down, after an illness of five days, the Very Rev. Jeffry Lefroy, Dean of Dromore, aged 76.

Dec. 10, at Renhold Vicarage, Bedford, the Rev. Leigh Spencer, Vicar of the parish and Rural Dean of Eaton, aged 69.

Dec. 10, the Rev. John Maxwell Wilde, Vicar of West Ashby.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE.

OXFORD.

In a Congregation held on Thursday morning the following degrees were conferred:—

M.A.—Arthur Venis (in absence) and Leonard Francis Potts, Balliol; Percival Hardy, Merton; Arthur Reginald Carew Cocks and James Christopher Alcock, Exeter; the Rev. William Tylden Dyne and the Rev. Edward Henry Sankey, Oriel; James Alfred Port, New; Charles Lock Roddock, Lincoln; William Codrington Elers and Ernest Edward Hutton, Magdalen; Evan William Pole and Lewis Charles Powles, Christ Church; the Rev. Percy Coates, St. John's; Francis Vere Stanley, Worcester; Stephen John Cousins, Keble; Cecil Montefiore Barrow (in absence), Hertford; Francis Henry Duggins, non-collegiate.

B.A.—Thomas Henry Bayley and Francis Edward Cuming, University; Alsager Vian, Robert Francis Waylen, John Edward Kelsall, and John Felix Waley, Balliol; Herbert Edward Worthington, Malcolm James Rowley Dunston, and William Salter, Merton; David Hornden, the Rev. Sidney Charles Saunders, James Edward Crane, Thomas Carey Knox, William John Ward, Charles Westall Turner, Fred Augustus Basford-de-Wilson, and William Hamilton Ritchie, Exeter; William Andrew Lang, William Francis Sorsbie, and Herbert Samson, Oriel; Charles Thomas Gillett and Alfred Walter George Clarke, Queen's; George Studley Sealey Vidal, Andrew Cassels Kay, Pickering Phipps, and James Henry Watts, New; Edmund Hardy Hamilton, Lincoln; Cecil James Kitcat, Charles Miskin Laing, Walter Edmund Roth, and Robert Kingdon Ellis, Magdalen; Augustus Gordon Grant Asher and Alexander Mare Latham, Brasenose; Francis William Crailsheim and James Edward Mitchell, Corpus Christi; Arthur Carlton Nicholson, Frederick Ellerker Lewin, and Thomas Gifford Nash, Christ Church; Gordon Walker Paterson, Ronald Macdonald, Henry Balfour, and Harry Graeme Vassall, Trinity; George Edmund Kynaston Cross, Hugh Alban Watts, and Walter Coventry Hall Parlby, St. John's; William Owen Jenkins, and Herman Joseph Cohen, Jesus; Edward William Bastard, and Edward Theophilus Boileau Harrison, Wadham; Henry Robert Hall, Pembroke; William Cazer Kemp, Arthur Cecil Hillier, and John Herbert Wightman Lewis, Worcester; Leonard James Rich, Martin Edward Mackenzie, Francis Reginald Pemberton, and Stephen John Cousins, Keble; Henry Barrington Tristram and John Parkinson Bygott, Hertford; Gerald Gurney, New Inn Hall; Francis Henry Duggins, and Eugene Ebenezer Temple Candler, non-collegiate.

CAMBRIDGE.

The following degrees were conferred on Thursday:—

M.A. (by proxy).—Owen Alfred Wedekind O'Neill, Queen's, now resident in Egypt.

B.L.—Robert Watson Smyth, Trinity.

B.A.—Edmund Henry Parker, Andrew Hallidie Smith, King's; Sir Montagu Frederick Montagu Pollock, Robert Watson Smyth, Trinity; John Appleyard, James Ridley Burnett, Edgar Norman Langham, David Walker, St. John's; Theodore Cromble Gobat, Clare; William Francis Colclough, Gonville and Caius; Samuel George Dobree Fox, Corpus Christi; Hugh Robert Campbell Barber, St. Catharine's; John Morris Bowen, Thomas Alexander Garratt, William Morgan Jones, Arthur Ford Smith, Christ's; Edward Stanton Lowe, Sidney Sussex; Harold Alexander Caryl, Joseph Duncan Dathan, Hubert Seymour Isaacs, Samuel Rhys Williams, Cavendish Hostel; Ralph William Jones, non-collegiate.

This was the last Congregation during the present term.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Bishop of Rangoon has telegraphed to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for three clergymen for Mandalay, which is now open to the Church, after a suspension of all missionary work for six years.

Canon Liddon, accompanied by his sister, Mrs. R. P. King, of Standish House, near Gloucester, has left England for Egypt and Palestine, the Canon's condition imperatively requiring lengthened and absolute rest.

The Bishop of London will hold an ordination in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday morning.

The Bishop of Peterborough has, at the request of the Council of the Incorporated Free and Open Church Association, consented to introduce the Parish Churches Bill into the House of Lords next session. The Bill declares the equal right of all parishioners to the free use of the seats in their parish church.

The Archbishop of York has consented to be a president of the Church of England Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays. There are already fourteen homes belonging to the society, and it is proposed to add another for the children of convicts, if funds can be obtained for the purpose.

The Bishop of Durham on Tuesday consecrated the Church of St. Paul, Gateshead, this being the third new parish church which he has consecrated within a month.

The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's have appointed Minor Canon Rowsell to the important post of Succentor in the Cathedral, in succession to the Rev. Dr. Simpson, who has resigned, after holding the office for ten years.

It is a new but a good thing for a seaport town like Sunderland to mark the Third Sunday in Advent as it did by simultaneous sermons in seventeen of its churches in aid of the Missions to Seamen, as a practical effort to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord," who shall carry to the end of the earth a living witness of Christianity in personal practice.

The Very Rev. John Saul Howson, D.D., Dean of Chester, died on Tuesday evening at Bournemouth. Dr. Howson was born in 1816, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in Double First Class honours in 1837. On three occasions he bore off University prizes, taking the members' prize in 1837 and 1838, and the Norrisian prize in 1840. He was ordained in 1845, and became senior classical master, and subsequently, in 1849, principal of the Liverpool College. Resigning this appointment at the close of 1865, he was appointed vicar of Wisbech St. Peter. He acted as examining chaplain to the Bishop of Ely from 1867 to 1873, and was appointed to the deanery of Chester in 1867. He had scarcely settled down in his new sphere before he began a great work in connection with the restoration of his Cathedral, and in the course of four years he obtained no less than £40,000 towards this object. One of the most remarkable features of the work was the apsidal termination of the south choir aisle. The late Dean was one of the chief movers in favour of the establishment of an Order of Deaconesses. He was the author of various volumes of sermons, and edited, in conjunction with the Rev. W. J. Conybeare, *The Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, which was published in two quarto volumes in 1852. Dean Howson's loss (says the *Times*) will be much felt. He was an able and eloquent preacher, indefatigable, so far as his health would permit, in the service of the Church, liberal and widely tolerant in his views, and scholarly in his attainments. In private life he was especially amiable, engaging in his manners, and of a kind and compassionate nature, so that he was popular among all classes with whom he came in contact.

Lord Alwyne Compton, Dean of Worcester, and Prolucutor of the late Convocation of Canterbury, is to be the new Bishop of Ely, in succession to Dr. Woodford. The Worcester correspondent of the *Times* says there is a general feeling of regret in that city at the idea of losing one who for the last six years has taken so active and beneficent a part in local affairs, both Lord and Lady Alwyne Compton having always readily responded to any call made upon them in the cause of religion and charity, the promotion of social or moral improvement, or the cultivation of science and learning. Lord Alwyne is a Conservative in politics, but he has never joined any political movement while resident in Worcester. Lady Alwyne's benevolent services on behalf of her own sex will be greatly missed in Worcester. The new Bishop of Ely is brother of the Marquis of Northampton. He was born in 1825, and graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, as a Wrangler, in 1848. He was ordained in 1850, and two years later became rector of Castle Ashby. He was an Hon. Canon of Peterborough from 1856 to 1875, and Archdeacon of Oakham from 1875 to 1879, when he was appointed Dean of Worcester on the death of Dr. Yorke. In the following year he was elected Prolocutor of Canterbury in succession to Dr. Bickersteth, of Lichfield, having for many years previously been a distinguished member of the Lower House. In 1882 he was appointed Lord High Almoner in succession to the Bishop of Newcastle.

The following resolution has been passed by the Council of the Incorporated Free and Open Church Association:—"That in view of the recent attacks upon the National Church, and the acknowledged necessity of reform, it is suggested to all friends of the movement that in every parish where appropriation prevails they should at once give notice of the following or a similar resolution for the next Easter Vestry, and, if necessary, insist upon a poll of the parish being taken upon it:—'That the seats in the parish church being by law intended for the free use of all parishioners, any appropriation of the same be forthwith discontinued.'" A sample packet of leaflets, including an "Address to Parishioners," will be forwarded *gratis* on application to the secretary, 24, Bedford-street, Strand.

A memorial of the late Bishop Claughton, the outcome of a public subscription, placed in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, has just been uncovered. The monument consists of a medallion bust in the highest relief, set in a richly-carved frame of alabaster. The bust is an excellent likeness of the late prelate. The inscription, which is cut upon a black marble slab let into the alabaster, is as follows:—"Piers Calverley Claughton, D.D., born June 8, 1814, died August 11, 1884, Archdeacon of London, and Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, Chaplain-General of Her Majesty's Forces, Bishop of St. Helena, 1859-67, Bishop of Colombo, 1867-72. 'We were gentle among you.' (I Thess. ii. 7.) This monument was erected by friends who cherish his memory."

An important communication has been addressed by the Bishop of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Coventry, in which his Lordship says:—"I have already expressed my views sufficiently, perhaps, in the paper about Disestablishmen tand Disendowment which I lately put in circulation. I am satisfied that nothing can prevent the disruption of the Church of England and all its attendant evils but the institution of a general Church council, in which laymen duly elected to represent the lay members of the Church shall have a substantial voice, and which shall have authority as well to regulate matters of internal administration as to prepare such schemes for greater changes as may be thought necessary for the sanction of the Crown and Parliament. It is certain that Parliament as now constituted will not undertake the full discussion and preparation of such measures of Church reform as are urgently needed, and without such a general council as I describe, I do not see how the national Church can stand. I deplore the continued existence of our Convocations of clergy, in no sense synods of the Church. The rulers of the early Church would have laughed to scorn such a constitution of synods, with their two Houses framed in imitation of the secular Parliament. The Diocesan Conferences and Church Congresses, of which, alas! we have had experience in late years, are to my mind an almost unmixed evil. The laymen who take part in them are in no sense representative of the laity of the Church of England, and the perpetual agitation of controverted questions without any power of settling them by legislative means can only be full of mischief. I am not prepared to issue any instructions or advice officially on the subject, because I think that the clergy and laity of the diocese would perhaps consider it impertinent in me to do so. I think the true way of helping our Church at the present time, and the sooner the better, would be to petition the Houses of Parliament for the institution of such a standing national general council as I have described." It is stated that the vicar of Nuneaton is organising, with the Bishop's consent, a parochial association for the defence and reform of the Church, of which association the Bishop has intimated his willingness to be president.

The *Yorkshire Post* says the death of Canon Eden, vicar of Aberford, near Leeds, which took place on Monday, closes a career which began before the birth of the great revival that made the second quarter of this century one of the most remarkable periods in the religious life of England. In that keen conflict Mr. Eden took part, his early associations having brought him into close relationship with the movement and its promoters. A Fellow of Oriel during the most brilliant period of the history of that institution, he had as his contemporaries Keble, Newman, Arnold of Rugby, and other distinguished Fellows of that college, including Archbishop Whately, Moseley the essayist, Copleston, Hartley Coleridge, William Wilberforce, brother of the late Bishop of Winchester, R. H. Froude, and George Anthony Denison. Thus thrown into contact with some of the leaders of that great movement, the young clergyman naturally sympathised with the principles which were set forth in the *Tracts for the Times*. But it was with the doctrinal questions involvee in the controversy that he was chiefly concerned, and though he was in cordial sympathy with the agitation, and contributed to the series of tracts, he preferred to leave it to a younger generation to carry out the teaching in the externals of worship. Even before then he had gained considerable distinction as a man of deep thought and extensive learning. His connection with Oriel began at the early age of eight, when he became a Bible clerk at that college, a position which he occupied until he was fourteen. In 1830 he took a First Class in Classics. He was appointed examiner in the Classical Honours School, and was twice Select

Preacher. He was ordained in 1833. On the secession of Newman, Mr. Elen in 1843 succeeded him as vicar of St. Mary's. In 1850 he accepted the living of Aberford, and for the rest of his life devoted himself to the duties of parish priest. In that capacity he won the affectionate esteem of his parishoners, who profited by the example of a pure and saintly life. His regular duties did not altogether prevent him from pursuing his literary tastes, for he edited and published in twelve volumes the works of Bishop Jeremy Taylor. Some years ago he delivered a series of theological lectures in Leeds. He was Proctor for the archdeaconry of York during the last three Convocations. He often preached at the Minster, and his sermons were listented to with great interest. Although he had been in failing health for some years he never relaxed his efforts in promoting the welfare of his parishioners until he was absolutely compelled.

The disappearance of the Rev. Merton Smith, vicar of Plympton St. Mary, and the subsequent discovery of his remains near Eaux Chaudes, in the Pyrenees, will be remembered by many. A very beautiful reredos has been erected by the family of Mr. Merton Smith as a memorial in the church of Plympton St. Mary. The structural portion extends from the north to the south wall of the chancel, and is of the species of sandstone known as "Mansfield red." In the centre is a canopy, under which stands a brass cross which was presented to Mr. Merton Smith some years ago by a number of his parishioners. On each side there are panels of Caen stone with groups in relief, the subject of one being the Adoration of the Shepherds, and that of the other the Entombment. The slab of the retable is of Devonshire marble. The whole has been very successfully executed, from the design of Mr. J. D. Sedding.

The ancient and interesting Church of St. Michael, Lyme Regis, after having undergone extensive repairs, was reopened last week by Bishop Wordsworth. When the present Vicar, the Rev. G. H. P. Barlow, took charge of the parish some two years ago the church was in a state of great dilapidation. Feeling very strongly the necessity of something being done as soon as possible to put the house of God in decent repair, he sought to enlist the sympathies of all classes of his parishioners in the work. To accomplish this in a parish where things had been going on in a certain groove for some forty years and more was no easy task; and, as one of the speakers remarked at the luncheon, the fact of the work having been accomplished so completely and so successfully in so short a time was a proof of the wisdom, earnestness, and judgment with which it had been commended to the hearts and pockets of the parishioners. The total cost of the work has been about £2,500. At the reopening there was an early Communion, at which the Bishop was the celebrant. This was followed by a special dedication service and shortened Matins at half-past eleven, at which the Bishop preached. At the evening service, which was attended by a crowded congregation, the Bishop again preached.

The restoration of the tower and the rehanging of the peal of bells at Sherborne Abbey have been commemorated by a special service by the Bishop of Salisbury and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, whose dioceses (with that of Exeter) were formerly parts of Sherborne. The Bishops of London and Exeter were unable to be present. During the service and after the special prayers the bells were rung. The "Ancient Society of College Youths" afterwards performed for the first time a peal of upwards of 5,000 changes. The defects in the old tower were due to the bad Norman work of Bishop Roger of Salisbury. These were partly repaired in 1853 by the late Mr. R. C. Carpenter, under whose supervision two piers were rebuilt. The recent works are at the upper part of the tower, its eastern and western walls having been rebuilt on new relieving arches, so constructed as to throw the weight off the sunken Norman arches to the solid piers. The rest of the walls have been carefully restored by replacing stone for stone any that were defective and marked by the architect. The twelve long-lost pinnacles now crown the tower on their ancient bases. The architects have been Mr. R. Herbert Carpenter and Mr. B. Ingelow, and the funds were raised by general subscriptions. It may be noted that at the west end of the north aisle is a doorway and wall of the pre-Norman Cathedral, which possibly dated back to the days of St. Aldhelm. On the new memorial cross to the late Mr. G. D. W. Digby, the munificent restorer of the choir, are bronze figures of other builders of the church—St. Aldhelm, Bishop Roger of Salisbury, and Abbot Bradford. The design is by the same architects.

Lieutenant-General Lowry, C.B., has joined the Central Council of the Laymen's League, and the Bishop of Durham has addressed the following letter to the hon. secretary:—

"*Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, Dec.* 2.

"Dear Sir,—The aims and purposes of your League appear to me to be excellent; and, under wise direction, it may prove an invaluable aid to the Church.—

"I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"R. Pugh, Esq." "J. B. DUNELM.

A memorial of clergy of the Church of England addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury and York urging in the interests of the nation the pressing necessity of legislation on Church reform in the coming Parliament is in course of preparation by the Rev. S. A. Walrond, of the Charterhouse, E.C. The reforms which in the opinion of the memorialists are most pressing are:—1. To give a clearly-defined share to the laity by means of parochial councils and otherwise in the administration of Church affairs. 2. To reform Church patronage so as to put an end to the traffic in livings, and to secure that no one be appointed to a living without a previous consultation of the parishioners or their representatives. 3. To provide further security against ministerial inefficiency, from whatever cause it may arise. 4. To reduce the anomalies of the present distribution of the endowments of the Church. 5. So far to relax the Act of Uniformity as to make it lawful to hold in our churches a greater variety of services, according to the needs and circumstances of the population in different parishes and districts. The Archbishops, to whom copies of the memorial have been shown, have consented to its presentation at some later date.

The case of the Rev. James Bell-Cox, perpetual curate of St. Margaret's, Princes-road, Liverpool, against whom a monition to refrain from ritualistic practices had been decreed, came before the York Chancery Court in York Minster last week. Lord Penzance, the president of the Court, was represented by a surrogate, who read Lord Penzance's written judgment as follows:—"On reading the affidavits of Charles Ayliff and Robert Jones, the Court declares that the allegations made by the complainant's proctor as to the disobedience by the defendant of the monition issued in this cause as set forth in the notice served upon the defendant and deposited in the registry of the Court, have been duly proved, and adjudges the defendant guilty of contempt and disobedience to the orders of the Court, and upon the prayer of the complainant's proctor orders and decrees that the defendant, the Rev. James Bell-Cox, be suspended *ab officio* for a period of six calendar months." The order of suspension was made returnable on the 14th of January, the first day in the next term.

A special meeting of the Council of the Incorporated Free and Open Church Association was held on Tuesday evening at 24, Bedford-street, Strand. The chairman, Mr. F. H. Rooke, presided. A letter was read from the Bishop of Peterborough to the chairman, cordially consenting to undertake the introduction of the Parish Churches Bill into the House of Lords early in the approaching session. It was resolved to issue a special appeal for the sum of £1,000 for Parliamentary work in connection with the vigorous prosecution of the Bill through the Houses of Lords and Commons, and the necessary organisation of petitions in its favour; public and parochial meetings and lectures in towns and villages throughout the country; and for the printing and wide dissemination of leaflets and publications.

The Very Rev. Jeffry Lefroy, Dean of Dromore, died at the close of last week at his residence, Aghaderg Glebe, Loughbrickland, county Down, aged 76 years. The late Dean was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took his Bachelor's degree in 1832, and proceeded M.A. in 1848; and he was a member of the Senate of the University of Dublin. He was ordained deacon in 1833, admitted to priest's orders in the following year, and had held the rectory of Aghaderg, in the diocese of Dromore, since 1836, and the Deanery of Dromore for nearly ten years. The late Dean was the third son of the late Right Hon. Thomas L. Lefroy, some time Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, by his marriage with Mary, only daughter and heiress of Mr. Jeffry Paul, of Silver Spring, county Wexford, and brother of Mr. Anthony Lefroy, many years M.P. for county Longford and for Dublin University. Dean Lefroy married Helena, eldest daughter of the Rev. Frederick French, and of his wife, Lady Helena, sister of George James, sixth Earl of Egmont.

The death is announced of the Very Rev. William Christie, Dean of Moray and Banff. He died a few days since, in his 69th year, having held the office of Dean for upwards of a quarter of a century. Dean Christie graduated at the University and King's College, Aberdeen, in 1838. He was ordained deacon in 1834, and admitted to priest's orders in the following year by the Bishops of Aberdeen and Orkney. He was formerly incumbent of Arradoul and Buckie, in Banffshire, and had held the incumbency of Fochabers, in the diocese of Moray, since 1855. He was appointed Dean of the united diocese of Moray, Ross, and Caithness, in 1861; he was examining chaplain to the Bishop of the diocese, and some time chaplain to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, at Gordon Castle. Dean Christie was the editor of a collection of Scottish airs and ballads.

ARCHDEACON DENISON AND MR. GLADSTONE.

It may be remembered that at an election meeting in Somerset last month the Archdeacon of Taunton made some remarks about Mr. Gladstone which were sharply commented upon at the time. The Archdeacon took the first public opportunity at his command—a meeting in defence of Church and State, held at Taunton on November 12—to express his regret at having allowed himself to use words in "connection with Mr. Gladstone's name" which he admits "were, in themselves and in their connection, unfit, unseemly, and improper to be used, however they may be explained and accounted for." In a pamphlet, published by Mr. Ridgway, of Piccadilly, Archdeacon Denison repeats this expression of regret, and then proceeds to give his reasons for his unvarying public opposition for a period of thirty-four years to Mr. Gladstone as member of Parliament, and, most of all, as First Minister of the Crown. His quarrel with Mr. Gladstone, he points out, is not, and never has been, a personal quarrel in any sense. "My contention," he says, "is not against the man at all, who has so many claims to be honoured and loved, but against a habit of mind which makes him so entirely impossible to be depended upon as First Minister of the Crown, Minister of State, member of Parliament—exponent and defender of the Constitution in Church and State." The Archdeacon quotes in an appendix some curious remarks by several of Mr. Gladstone's earlier and later contemporaries, throwing some light on the peculiar constitution of that statesman's mind, and concludes his interesting pamphlet with the following summary:

"Of all things that I have known in a long life, the history of Mr. Gladstone's career is the most melancholy and greatest warning to every statesman. The man first, and for a time, in all the power of unblemished character and mighty intellect, defender, maintainer, advocate, improver of the use of the gift of God to the people of England, the gift of 'Church and State.' The man dazzled with the vision of 'Governing Power,' turning away his eyes from his 'first love,' and wandering away into paths of man's 'inventions.' The man content to surrender one after the other principal elements of 'Church and State' to the popular cry. The man become the prince of the Opportunists. The man first the patron, then the follower, then the agent of the 'Red Radical.' Paving the way in his company for the miserable deceits of irreligion, Socialism, Communism. The man who has not hesitated to apply Church property to secular uses. The man who votes for the 'Deceased Wife's Sister' Marriage Bill; a thing in itself, and in its necessary adjuncts and followings, the breaking up, by law of the land, of all sanctity and purity of marriage. The man who, having written over the door of the House of Commons 'Civil and Irreligious Liberty,' has bound himself to set open the door, that any number of Bradlaughs, presenting themselves to take the oath, may be ushered and welcomed in. For are they not an element of the great Liberal party? The man who sacrificed Gordon to the disputes and difficulties of a discordant Cabinet of 'the great Liberal party.' The man of no decisions except the one decision to govern England by the help of the great Liberal party, however composed. The man of many and mighty words but of obscurest meaning. Finally—and it is the key which unlocks the casket of life—the man, by his own confession, of 'no intuitions.' In their absence, the persuader of himself from day to day in an ever increasing ratio, by a process, hard to describe in words, but, in his case, not difficult to understand, that the rule of Statecraft in every question, whether its title to consideration be Divine or human, is simply the rule of 'practical politics.' The intellect his king. The conditions and circumstances of the day the guide to the conclusion of the day, ever shifting as the 'exigencies' of the Governing Power may demand. Ending always at a lower point in the history of England's citizenship than that at which they stood the day, aye the hour, before. Is there any public action wrongful in itself, injurious, in fact, or by tendencies, to the Divine gift and Constitutional position of the Church of England, which Mr. Gladstone, the author of *The Church in Connection with the State*, 1841, has not supported as leader of 'the great Liberal party?' Is there any recognition or 'magnifying' of that position which has not suffered in his hands when weighed in the balance of 'practical politics?' For there is such a thing as *condemnare diminuendo*. We have an Anglicism upon this practice which I forbear to cite. It is to be found in the preface to Pope's *Satires*. I am told that Mr. Gladstone has lately written something against reasoning by syllogism. How like the man, who must have his *pros* and *cons* upon every conceivable subject of human thought: Divine and human. And, no doubt, reasoning by syllogism is found to be, in some cases, very inconvenient. Nevertheless, for myself, having still abiding in me respect and love for reasoning by syllogism, I will conclude with a syllogism, *e.g.*—The first and greatest thing to care for in English life is 'the backbone of the Great Liberal Party.' 'The Nonconformist is the backbone of the Great Liberal Party.' The first and greatest thing to care for in English life is 'the Nonconformist.' *Solvuntur risu tabulæ*. What has become of all Mr. Gladstone's 'Ayes' in Parliament, and out of it, for the Church of England, in the last forty-five years? 'The Noes have it.'

Eheu! Amici, amici:
Sed magis amica
Veritas.

"*East Brent, Dec.* 11."

ENGLAND, RUSSIA, AND CHINA.

At the Royal United Service Institution on Wednesday afternoon, Mr. ARCHIBALD R. COLQUHOUN read an interesting and instructive paper entitled "England and Russia in Asia." At the outset of his remarks Mr. Colquhoun observed that during the recent political excitement several facts had passed comparatively unnoticed, all tending to show that Russia was silently preparing to make use of any opportunity for again menacing the integrity of either India or China. If a weak and disunited Government were in office in England, there would probably be no cordial understanding with China, which is anxious for closer relations with Great Britain, and possesses a fixed and statesmanlike policy of her own with regard to Russia. After reviewing the present situation in Eastern Asia, the lecturer proceeded to estimate the consequences of the recent struggle between France and China, pointing out that the chief lesson to be learnt therefrom by English statesmen was the renaissance of the national and military spirit in China. The identity of the interests between Great Britain and China was so apparent that nothing more lamentable nor disastrous could possibly happen than a collision between the two countries, and Chinese statesmen were as fully alive to the advantages of an alliance with England as they were to the dangers that threatened their northern territory by the designs of Russia. The Chinese were beginning to understand their true position and interests in the world, just as the Japanese had done years before, and were now fully awake to the mutual interests that connected them with England and India. The opportunity for developing and strengthening our relations with them ought not to be lost. Our method of drawing closer the bonds of intimacy between China and India presented itself in their connection by telegraphic communication which would be afforded by the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Company, by which a considerable saving would be effected for this country in the cost of Government messages. In conclusion, Mr. Colquhoun observed:—To say that the designs of Russia make the statesmen of China and Japan uneasy is to greatly understate the case. Russia is the nightmare of Chinese and Japanese statesmen, and the object of the inextinguishable hatred of the Manchurs. It is unnecessary to enter upon an explanation of the causes of this disquietude and dislike—they are much the same that appeal to Englishmen—enough that the Chinese and Japanese know quite well the Russian character and policy, and have not forgotten the loss of the enormous slice of Manchuria, in 1860, and the repeated attempts to encroach on Japanese territory, notably, in the same year, 1860, when the Russians attempted to establish themselves in a fine strategic position commanding the Japan Sea—namely, Tsushima (the Twin Islands). France they fear only as a restless and capricious Power, and as possibly open some day to a Franco-Russian alliance. The interests of the three Empires of India, China, and Japan are now seen to be identical, the cardinal point of the policy of each being the maintenance of peace, which can only be upheld by a cordial understanding between the three. With a common policy they would form a combination that would prove an absolute guarantee for the peace of Asia. What cannot 530,000,000 of people with one common object accomplish, either in peace or war? To Russia they could speak with an authority, whether their message was "Hitherto, but no further," or of a more peremptory character. England under the last Administration spurned the opportunity of consolidating the peace of Europe by accepting the friendship of Germany. She has a chance of redeeming in Asia the errors committed in Europe, but she has also a chance of repeating them with still more disastrous consequences. In China and Japan there are statesmen worthy of the name, while in India we are fortunate in having at the present critical time our ablest diplomatist, and one of the most farseeing statesmen not only of this country but of Europe. The discussion that ensued was opened at the chairman's request by Captain Colomb, who remarked that the efforts of Russia to extend her territory southward and eastward had not been sufficiently appreciated by English statesmen. Sir Roper Lethbridge, M.P., confirmed the observations of the lecturer on the advantages of an Anglo-Chinese alliance. Mr. Delmar Morgan expressed an opinion that no alarm need be entertained as to the advances or intentions of Russia. Mr. Charles Marvin combated Mr. Morgan's views, remarking that there was abundant evidence to show that Russia had for years contemplated an extension of territory in southern and eastern latitudes. She had extended her conquests to Merv, the distance from which to Herat was but 240 miles across easy country. Within 400 or 500 miles of Herat, across equally easy country, she could reach the British frontier; and by way of the Caspian, the Turcoman country, and Afghanistan her communications with India were comparatively easy. Although Russia had not been a colonising country, she had been continually shifting her dependent populations eastward, with the view of peopling Central Asia. The value of a Chinese alliance ought not to be depreciated by this country; but it ought not to be solely relied on for the defence of India, which ought to be rendered safe from attack by the guarding of its natural frontiers. As regarded the occupation of Herat, he differed from a distinguished authority in thinking that it could not be held by Russia without great difficulty. Russian generals believed that it could be easily occupied, and held with a garrison at slight cost. Colonel Malleson, Captain Beaufort, and Major Bell also spoke. Sir Beauchamp Walker, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Colquhoun, remarked that, as had been often said by Sir Henry Rawlinson, if Russia had no designs upon India, she might wish to place herself in a menacing attitude upon the frontier, so as to checkmate any interference on the part of England with her designs upon Turkey. Mr. Colquhoun having replied, the proceedings terminated.

Commander Cameron, R.N., the African explorer, lectured on Monday at the London Institution, before a crowded audience, on "The Heart of Africa." His connection with Africa, he said, dated back twenty years, but as an explorer for twelve years. Of course, the greatest name connected with African exploration was that of Dr. Livingstone, but they should not forget what had been done by the Portuguese during the latter half of the last century. In the last nine years a great deal had been done in the centre of Africa chiefly owing to the energy of the King of the Belgians. As evidence of the great advance which had been made he would mention that in 1867 slaves were openly sold in the market at Zanzibar; now there was a Cathedral on the spot. The Germans determined to take up the question of Central Africa, and, with the efforts of Mr. Stanley in the service of the King of the Belgians, some parts of the River Congo were now known as well as the River Thames. All the river was not open to commerce, but for geographical purposes it was well known. The work of Mr. Stanley on the Congo had been well supplemented by the London Missionary Society. The Congo Free State had been formed; but the treaty entered into between England and Portugal had been much abused. Perhaps, in the interests of the new State, it was better that the treaty should not be kept. International law had been much upset by the Berlin Conference, where many new ideas were introduced. Germany had now very great interests and influence in the centre of Africa, and it was, in his opinion, very dangerous to the interests of England for a Power like Germany to get command of a great portion of the centre of Africa. At the Cameroons England had made a mistake. It was a great oil-producing district, and it was in the hands of the Germans, who had secured the most healthy parts of the country, and rendered their position in the heart of Africa superior to that of any other nation. He thought that England had greater right to Africa than any other European country. More Englishmen had explored the Continent, and more Englishmen had died there. Englishmen, however, did not adequately recognise the great future which Africa opened up to them. The Government should help the explorers, and then there would be a fair field for English traders. The explorer worked for the whole world; but the trader worked for his own country first. The lecturer then went on to describe the principal journey which he undertook, accompanied by a nephew of Dr. Livingstone, who died on the way, and which resulted in the discovery of Dr. Livingstone's dead body and the recovery of his papers and journals. Commander Cameron, in conclusion, said that the natives of Africa were eminently a trading people, markets being held at regular intervals at many of the most remote villages. The country would at a future day, with the railway and the steamer to supplant the carrier, offer a very favourable market to the enterprising nations of Europe. Then the slave trade, which was depopulating the country, would be stamped out; but nothing could be done without improved means of carriage. He hoped, therefore, that the two railways which were contemplated, from the Lower Congo to Stanley Pool and from Loando to Kasengi, would soon be completed, and that England would take her part in the work.

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LONDON, DECEMBER 19.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

Mr. GLADSTONE has pronounced for Home Rule in Ireland. In return for the support of Mr. PARNELL and his followers in the House of Commons he is prepared to grant Mr. PARNELL'S demand for an Irish Parliament and to concede Irish independence. To those who adequately appreciate the callous immorality of Mr. GLADSTONE'S character and career there is nothing surprising in this announcement. For years past, in these columns, we have indicated the certainty that Mr. GLADSTONE would end his shameless political life by this crowning crime, if once it should appear likely to subserve his personal interests. The time has come when, in order to return to power, he finds it desirable to adopt a course of profligate tergiversation. And he does not shrink—he never has shrunk—from sacrificing honour and consistency, duty and patriotism, in order to advance his paltry ambitions. Once before, in order that he might regain office, the Irish Church was overthrown and plundered. Now, to achieve the same end, he is ready to destroy the unity of the Kingdom. The utterly cynical shamelessness of the policy that Mr. GLADSTONE advances is brought into prominence by the fact that at the recent General Election he appealed for the support of the country on this above all other grounds: that it was desirable that the Liberal party should be strong enough to successfully resist the untenable demands of Mr. PARNELL. It is, of course, premature to attempt any examination of the Irish policy that Mr. GLADSTONE has communicated to the public through sources of publicity of which he has previously availed himself. The equivocations that he offers on the subject of the published statements suffice to prove their practical authenticity. In brief, Mr. GLADSTONE offers all that Mr. PARNELL demands—an Irish Parliament, that is, and Home Rule. He, of course, professes the intention of maintaining the Imperial authority; but the illusory character of any similar restrictions on Irish independence does not need to be insisted upon. An Irish Parliament and Home Rule mean Irish Secession and the establishment of an Irish Republic. And towards these ends the Irish Nationalists will proceed by public plunder and civil war.

The duty of the English people and of the Conservative party at the present crisis is clear and manifest. It devolves upon the Tory Government to offer the most strenuous resistance to any schemes for the disruption of the kingdom. And it behoves the English people to at once take steps to publicly protest, by meetings and demonstrations, against the treason to the Realm that is openly avowed. If England is but true to itself, Mr. GLADSTONE and his traitorous projects will be promptly swept away and disposed of by a vast outburst of popular indignation. The immediate interest rests in learning what assistance Mr. GLADSTONE may expect from his late colleagues in his present designs. Will Lord HARTINGTON, Lord SPENCER, and Mr. GOSCHEN, in defiance of their declared convictions, rally to Mr. GLADSTONE'S aid, and will they be followed by the Whigs and the Moderate Liberals in Parliament? And will Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Sir CHARLES DILKE support a policy that has for its main end to bring back Mr. GLADSTONE to office? A very short time ought to suffice to answer these questions, but an opportune demonstration of English opinion at the present crisis would certainly go far to render the answers of a satisfactory character. There is no doubt that in principle the Moderate Liberals, headed by Lord HARTINGTON, are opposed to Irish independence, and that the Radicals who owe allegiance to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN are quite prepared to acquiesce in it. But modern politicians of the Liberal school are not

wholly swayed by principle; and the measure of support Mr. GLADSTONE will receive from the two wings of his party is still a question of doubt. If Lord SALISBURY is defeated in the House of Commons on the question of Irish policy—and should Mr. GLADSTONE bring forward his Home Rule proposals, unless some ninety Moderate Liberals shake off their allegiance to their leader defeat seems inevitable—there can be no question of resignation on the part of the Tory Government. There must be a fresh Dissolution, and the constituencies be called upon to decide whether they will maintain the unity of the kingdom, or whether they will consent to Irish Secession, and the ultimate establishment of an independent and hostile Irish Republic.

The little wars in which England is at present engaged are proceeding with the customary desultory record of successes and misadventures. In Burmah the occupation of the capital and assumption of the government of the country have been followed by an outbreak of dacoity and brigandage in some districts which is likely to be promptly suppressed. The Burmese people have displayed on the whole a satisfactory acquiescence in British rule. It is clearly desirable that a definite policy should be at once entered upon in Burmah and distinctly declared. If the annexation of Burmah to the Indian Empire is forthwith announced, the peaceable settlement of the country is likely to be speedily effected, but any appearance of doubt or hesitation will simply serve as an encouragement to intrigue on the part of the adherents of the deposed dynasty. In Egypt fighting at the advanced posts continues, and the harassing attacks of the Arab tribesmen upon the English garrisons are likely to be persisted in so long as the British troops remain on the defensive. There seems too much reason to fear that safety will not be secured for Egypt until a fresh expedition beats back the Arab advance, and utterly and finally disposes of the Arab belief in Arab successes which the policy of Mr. GLADSTONE's Administration, in following up victory by retreat, has done so much to encourage. It is utterly unsatisfactory to see English lives and English treasure thus poured forth in Egypt, and to know that if Mr. GLADSTONE once returns to office it will again be in vain, and that every advantage gained in the field will be recklessly thrown away in the Cabinet. It remains to be seen what will be the result of Turkish intervention in the Soudan. AHMED MUHKTAR PASHA has not yet started for Cairo. If he ever arrives there, his success in effecting the conciliation of the Arab tribes will be the test of the usefulness of his mission.

French politics are particularly interesting at the present time, from the evidence that they incidentally afford of the absolute failure of the Republican form of government in France, and from the lessons they convey as to the inevitable dangers of democratic rule. The political dissatisfaction with existing institutions, of which the recent elections furnished startling proofs, have clearly ample justification in the condition of French affairs, both abroad and at home. Abroad, the wild policy of colonial adventure has resulted in recognised defeat and disaster. The Committees of the Chamber of Deputies to which has been entrusted the task of reporting upon the Ministerial demands for fresh credits for the prosecution of the Republican policy in Tonquin and Madagascar have brought up adverse reports, and recommend in effect the speedy abandonment of the French enterprises in both Asia and Africa. The decision of the Chamber is likely to be in accordance with the views of the Committees, and the French policy of colonial aggrandisement for which M. JULES FERRY and his Cabinet are responsible, after being condemned by the country, is likely to be forcibly ended by the Legislature. The vast expenditure of blood and treasure will remain wholly without advantageous results. Tonquin is not unlikely to prove as fatal to the Republic as Mexico was to the Empire. In domestic politics the necessity of electing a President of the French Republic has to be confronted. The seven-years' term of M. GREVY is expiring, and the ready resource of re-electing M. GREVY for another seven years, and so avoiding the political difficulties of choosing a successor, is met with the objection that M. GREVY's great age renders it undesirable to once more entrust to him the discharge of similarly great responsibilities. There is a growing feeling in favour of the nomination of M. DE FREYCINET, and this feeling is likely to find expression when the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies meet in Congress. It is probable that the next seven years of the Presidential term will find the French Republic opposed to attacks from its political opponents of a kind that will threaten its existence. But the French Republic has certainly given the French people little desire to see its life prolonged.

INTO THE ABYSS.

At last Mr. GLADSTONE has committed himself to the step which there can be little doubt he has contemplated for years past. The announcement of his intention to adopt a Home Rule programme for Ireland has startled the country, owing to the extreme gravity of the crisis which it occasions. But no one can feel really surprised at a decision which is entirely in harmony with the previous career of this least reputable of politicians. Everybody has foreseen that, some day or other, this would happen which has happened. Still, in spite of all Mr. GLADSTONE's past history, in spite of the innumerable surrenders of principle that have characterised his whole political life, men hesitated to believe it possible for even him to take this final plunge. It seemed incredible that one who has for so many years filled the position of Prime Minister of the British Empire should throw in his lot with those who live only to compass its ruin; that the political Leader in whom a large proportion of the British people has so devotedly and so implicitly placed its trust should deliberately combine with the nation's foes against its vital interests; that one who has had more reason than most men to fathom the true significance of the movement termed Irish Nationalism, and who cannot have failed to realise that it is simply a vast Treason and Murder conspiracy, should now consent to aid and abet that conspiracy and to betray his country into its blood-stained hands—all this, in a way, seemed surprising, and especially surprising by its suddenness. Yet a calm and sober review of Mr. GLADSTONE's past should suffice to show that there is here nothing really inconsistent with the rest of a career that has been marked throughout by a cynical contempt for the welfare of his country whenever it seemed to clash with his own petty schemes of self-glorification. He has never stuck at any means to gain this one end. All else—honour, truth, patriotism, everything—is flung to the winds. And now the final crisis has arrived. His vanity exacts one last holocaust. The sacrifice is greater than any that has been demanded before; but then the occasion is incomparably greater than any previous one. He is near, perhaps very near, the end of his time; yet he stands before the country and the world defeated and disgraced. It is the crisis of his life. What sacrifice can be too great to avert so dire a calamity as that *he* should have to retire from the scene thus covered with confusion and dishonour? Now or never! There is no time to be lost, and his mind is made up. Behold him at length, desperate with the rage of a baffled political trickster, distracted by the mania of his ambition, driven on by the demon of his self-love, rushing headlong down the steep place which leads to the abyss.

Is it possible that this scheme of his can succeed? Men are speculating as to the course to be adopted by this and that politician. Can Lord GRANVILLE and Lord SPENCER be parties to such a project? Is it possible that Lord SPENCER, to whom the country owed so much during a time of almost unexampled trouble in Ireland—that he, of all men, can connive at the triumph of Irish treason? And Lord HARTINGTON, content as he has been over and over again to smother his most cherished convictions and to belie his own declarations at the bidding of his Leader—can he agree to concede to the very men who are guilty of his brother's murder all that for the sake of obtaining which they imbrued their hands in innocent blood? Others too there are, such as Mr. GOSCHEN and Mr. FORSTER, who though they have often disappointed the hope that they might place patriotism above party, ought surely to be relied on at a crisis such as this not to desert their principles. As to the Radicals, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Sir CHARLES DILKE have both spoken upon the subject, and the utterances of neither can be deemed satisfactory. The natural affinity that exists between the English and Irish Revolutionaries makes it more than probable that the two parties will be found to be united on this question. Although, however, it is impossible to count upon the Radical Leaders to resist the disintegration of the Empire as a matter of principle, it is conceivable that as a question of policy they may think twice before committing themselves to a line of action which appears likely to arouse the hostility of English public opinion. After all, it is not to this or that political section or leader that we must look to stem the torrent which the opening of the floodgates of Treason will let loose upon us. It is the nation itself whose security is directly attacked; it is to the nation that we must appeal to make a firm stand, and to declare once and for all that this nefarious conspiracy against its peace—nay, its very existence—shall be crushed.

We may be sure, however, that Mr. GLADSTONE will spare no effort to delude the people into a belief that his scheme of Home Rule for Ireland is entirely consistent with the maintenance of the Empire. In his election manifesto he laid stress on "maintaining the "supremacy of the Crown, the unity of the "Empire, and the authority of Parliament "necessary for the conservation of that "unity"—language which, in effect, he has twice publicly repeated since. Who does not see the miserable hollowness and unreality of these reservations? What need is there to point out that, if once Home Rule is conceded, the so-called "safeguards" are nothing better than a solemn sham? Is the Imperial Parliament to exercise a *veto* on Irish legislation? If so, what is to prevent the Irish members of the Imperial Legislature from making questions of foreign policy a means of harassing England and Scotland until the *veto* is removed? Is an agreement to be concluded as to the proportion in which the British and Irish people respectively are to bear the financial burdens of the Empire? What then is to be the means of enforcing the understanding in the highly probable case of the Irish Parliament refusing to abide by it? So with other questions. There neither would nor could be any way by which the Irish Legislature could be brought to book if it chose to assert to itself greater powers than the original scheme of Home Rule professed to confer upon it. There is not a man in the Three Kingdoms who believes in his heart that the concession of self-government to Ireland would not to an absolute certainty be used simply and solely as a means for obtaining complete independence. If Mr. GLADSTONE's project becomes law, at that moment the establishment of an Irish Republic becomes unavoidable, save by civil war. The one must and will follow the other as surely as night follows day. That is the prospect before us, and this is the great act of suicide which the British nation is to be asked to commit.

NON POSSUMUS.

The announcement of Mr. GLADSTONE's intention to ally himself with the party of Irish Sedition may be taken as a sign that when Parliament meets the Government may not improbably find itself confronted by a united Opposition brought together by the unhallowed alliance of the followers of Mr. GLADSTONE with the followers of Mr. PARNELL. To what extent the Liberal party will lend itself to this anti-national and treasonable conspiracy—treasonable, because really aiming at the establishment of an Irish Republic—remains to be seen; but it would be the height of unwisdom for Conservatives to count on receiving the support of a number of Liberal votes sufficient to give them a majority. We must face the contingency, therefore, of the Government being placed in a minority early in the Session. It is a prospect which need not in the least dismay us. The House of Lords, thank GOD! still exists, and may be relied upon to force an appeal to the country on the Home Rule question, should that become necessary. Of the result of that appeal we entertain not the least doubt. Even, however, if the position of the Government were far less secure than we believe it really is, it may be taken for granted that Lord SALISBURY's Administration would never for one instant be tempted to offer concessions to Mr. PARNELL merely for the sake of retaining office. The allegation of such a possibility, if it were made, would be too preposterous even for discussion; and we mention it only to reject it utterly and completely.

Nevertheless, it may possibly be asserted that there is some danger lest the Government should be led into adopting a course with respect to Ireland such as would be fraught with certain disaster in the future. There is no occasion to give credence to the extravagant rumours of a Conservative scheme of Home Rule for Ireland. Lord SALISBURY and his colleagues are not the men to be misled into any follies of that description. What may possibly be apprehended is that Ministers may introduce what is called a "broad" scheme of Local Self-government for the counties, and that this scheme will be made equally applicable to the counties of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Now we feel compelled to say at once—and we know that we are speaking the mind of a vast number of members of the Tory party throughout the country—that, so far as concerns Ireland, the adoption of any scheme of local self-government means simply handing over the legal control of the national affairs to the National League. But to confer any additional powers of self-government whatever on the Irish people at the present moment would be to exhibit a fatal weakness, and to undermine authority at a juncture when it most of all needs to be strengthened. Surely Conservatives may take warning by past blunders. What was it but a huge blunder for their leaders in the House of Commons to have failed to oppose by every available means the recent extension of the Irish franchise and the allotment of an utterly unfair proportion of seats to the Irish constituencies? From that grievous error of judgment we are suffering at this moment, in the shape of an enormous addition to Mr. PARNELL's Parliamentary power. Mr. GLADSTONE's policy in conferring this increase of strength on the forces of Irish Sedition is intelligible enough. But for Conservatives to assent to it was little short of madness. Let us, we repeat, at least be warned by the mistakes of the past. It may be said that if Local Government is now to be conferred on England and Scotland, it cannot be denied to Ireland. If the proposition were true, we should decidedly draw the inference that it would be safer to postpone the gift of county self-government to all Three Kingdoms alike, rather than incur the peril of conferring it on Ireland. But we utterly deny the assumption that the Three Kingdoms have a claim to be treated on an equal footing. No fact can be more patent that that Ireland is in a state of veiled rebellion, and that fact of itself constitutes a reason for an exceptional treatment of Irish questions.

There can be no greater delusion than that which underlies the idea of what is called satisfying the "legitimate aspirations" of the Irish people. Some sanguine persons appear to imagine that there is room for making concessions which by satisfying these "aspirations" will deprive Mr. PARNELL of his materials for agitation. In point of fact the majority of the Irish people has no legitimate aspirations: they are all illegitimate. We are not denying the desirability of administrative reforms—above all, of such reforms as will strengthen the forces of law and order in Ireland. But these are not the reforms which would satisfy, or even meet with the approval of, the majority of Irishmen. What they desire is independence under a Republic of their own; and every concession of local self-government—whether it be by County Boards, or by a National Council, or by a National Parliament—tends to that end. The time has come for one policy and one policy only—the policy of *Non Possumus*. To say that concession is "inevitable" is sheer nonsense. No man with any pretence to be considered a statesman ought to listen for a moment to such a plea. What does it mean but that it is "inevitable" that Englishmen and Scotchmen should bow their necks to the yoke of Irishmen? The policy of concession to Treason should be scouted by all honest men. There has already been more than enough of truckling to sedition-mongers, secret society-men, and abettors of murder. If Ireland cannot, as it ought to be, be governed as a Crown Colony and deprived for a time of its Parliamentary representation we have at least a right to demand the summary suppression of the National League, and, if necessary, the proclamation of martial law. But as for concession of any sort or description, we hope the Government will have the courage to abandon all thoughts of it, and that they will be strengthened in their resolve by the force of public opinion, expressed in no hesitating or uncertain fashion.

THE CHURCH AT THE ELECTIONS.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT is an ill bird. The son of a distinguished clergyman, grandson of an Archbishop, he owes everything to the Church. Yet his malignity is never so exuberant as in reviling the clergy. It would be a waste of time, and a libel on his father's memory, to discuss the slanders he has invented or picked up from electioneering agents among the backbone of the Liberal party. If he at all believed in the party gain he boasts of from the elections, he would be more

indulgent of the clerical Toryism that threw the agricultural vote on his side. His resentment shows how sorely he felt the power of the Church against him, and, like the bully that he is, he wants to intimidate the clergy from a free exercise of their franchise in future. He calls himself a Churchman; he has both voted and spoken strongly against Disestablishment, though (we admit) that is no reason for doubting his acceptance of that or any other revolutionary measure that might serve his purpose at the moment. Still he poses for the present as a friend of the Establishment; but if the clergy persist in being Conservatives he will join in pulling down the Church to be revenged of them! This is his idea of Liberal politics. Mr. Gladstone intimated as much on another question when he pleaded for a majority over the Conservatives and Parnellites together, plainly because he would otherwise have to take the Nationalists under his umbrella to throw out the "wicked "Tories." To a Liberal of this type his own possession of office is the one thing needful to the country. The disestablishment of the Church and the dismemberment of the Realm are secondary matters to be sacrificed to the higher object.

For our own part we take a very different view of the Church action at the recent elections. The Church is essentially and of necessity Conservative. When clergymen indulge in "Liberal" politics, it is because they fancy there is no danger to the Church. Hence when Mr. Chamberlain, with true Radical ignorance of the deeper current, delivered his assault on the Establishment, Churchmen, clerical and lay, woke up at once. Their alarm was not to be quieted by the impudent falsehood of a Tory dodge. The elections went steadily in favour of the Conservatives. When Mr. Gladstone had been compelled to speak with a little—a very little—less ambiguity; when Mr. Chamberlain, with his tongue in his cheek, put the red rag in his pocket, to be pulled out again the moment the elections were over; when candidate after candidate scuttled out of their pledges, Churchmen were persuaded that the danger was over for the present. The *Guardian* rejoiced with the notable pledge that the question was not to be raised in the next Parliament. The Liberal clergy returned to their political *fads;* others relapsed into their customary apathy; and comparatively a few persevered in strenuous exertions for the Conservative candidates. This is our explanation of the defection in the counties—it was simply because they came on after the boroughs, when the alarm was abated and the defence went to sleep again.

The moral is plain: the Church must keep awake. The Liberal umbrella of the future is clearly Disestablishment. Disendowment is impossible. England will not allow it. But if Mr. Parnell would accept Disestablishment in Great Britain as well as Ireland, Mr. Gladstone would jump to give it, and we might be unable to avert the disaster. The English people are but just opening their eyes to the question. Not one in a thousand has the least notion of its practical meaning. The Liberation Society has made the mistake of letting the cat out of the bag, and we must not let them take it back again. We must not be beguiled by the "soft sawder" of Dr. Parker and Mr. Guinness Rogers at the City Temple Conference. When Mr. Miall brought in a Bill in Parliament he suffered a defeat which threw the attack back for years. After creeping up to the assault again for forty years, and pledging four or five hundred candidates to the cause, it is ridiculous to pretend no plan is formulated. It is formulated in *The Radical Programme,* and we must hold them to it. On this account we are not sorry that Mr. Carvell Williams is in the House. The egregious vanity which leads him to think his own voice the voice of the people will prompt him, we hope, to imitate Mr. Miall in "condescending to particulars," and with the like result. The truth is that religious equality is not so much a Nonconformist as a Nonconformist ministers' cry; lay Dissenters—especially the religious ones—have no sympathy with it. But as most Dissenting ministers are political agents, like the Irish priests, and habitually devote their pulpits, schools, and other agencies to electioneering uses, they readily impress their own wishes on Liberal candidates as the popular cause. Hence the rash pledges which so many have had to drop like a hot potato. The agricultural labourer makes his religious equality for himself; he goes to church or chapel or "nowhere" as he pleases. His favourite form of religion is the Primitive Methodist, in which the "minister" is chiefly wanted to baptise infants: the preaching they would rather do themselves. "Hodge" does not care a brass button for the social position of the minister, or the interchange of pulpits so vehemently desired by Dr. Parker. He has no other objection to the parson than the common dislike of the have-nots to all who have, or the polemical aversion of the fanatic to an educated preacher. He wants no alteration of the Church or the Church services; never asks for the privilege of the Burials Act. If you ask him, he will tell you he has "nought agin the Church." He would be for Disestablishment fast enough if he had anything to get by it; and this, in fact, is his only motive so far as he has joined the cry. The most effective of Liberationist lies, within our experience, is that the tithes were given for the poor, and the parsons have elbowed them out. Let it be known that if taken from the parson the tithes would still be exacted by the tax-gatherer, that a Church-rate and a minister's-rate would be required to meet the loss, and that free education means a permanent school-rate, equal or higher (as Mr. Chamberlain allows) than the pence now paid during the school age, and there will be very little love for Disestablishment in the agricultural class, farmer or labourer. This knowledge the clergy ought to see diffused among their flocks. If it results, as it must do, in strengthening the Conservative party, as the party of the Constitution in Church and State, there is nothing to fear from Sir William Harcourt. If he could do all that he threatens, the life interest of the clergy would be respected. But he would not be able to do anything; and, finding the Church too strong for him, this doughty Liberal would eat his leek and return to a better and more marketable mind.

Reviews.

THE LAUREATE'S NEW POEM.*

The new volume of poems by Lord Tennyson, gracefully dedicated to his "good friend" Robert Browning, contains a great deal which has been already published, but not already collected, and also some new poems which now for the first time see the light. It commences with an epistle addressed to Mr. E. Fitzgerald, an old friend of the author; indeed, so intimate a friend that he is hailed as—

> Old Fitz, who from your suburb grange,
> Where once I tarried for a while,
> Glance at the wheeling Orb of change,
> And greet it with a kindly smile.

Here on the very threshold we are met with a grammatical difficulty of a different kind from those which perplexed the mind of the first readers of the epitaph on Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, which is included in the present volume. However much we may complain grammatically of the great Eltchi being hailed as

> Here silent in our Minster of the West,
> Who wert the voice of England in the East,

we must own that there is still graver ground of complaint against "glance" and "greet," which no amount of poetic licence can convert into the second person singular, and an immediate appeal by name surely requires to be followed by a singular verb. If the intermediate reference to "*your* suburb grange" were taken out, the construction would be quite indefensible—"Old Fitz, "who glance and greet"—and it is not made right by using "your" where "thy" would be more correct.

But passing over this, we find much that is touching in this introductory epistle addressed by the poet who was nearing seventy-four to the poet who had touched seventy-five. If we mistake not, Mr. Fitzgerald himself has now joined those referred to in the previous lines whose voices are "heard on earth no more;" and no nobler epitaph could be written above his tomb than is contained in Lord Tennyson's lines, which speak of his—

> Golden Eastern lay,
> Than which I know no version done
> In English more divinely well.

But at the same time we fear that it is only an audience fit but few which is acquainted with that version. For the majority of readers, Mr. Fitzgerald's main claim to be remembered will be based on the lines here addressed to him, and to the fact that his birthday should have called forth from Lord Tennyson a line of greeting, and from Lord Tennyson's son so excellent a result of his dipping into some forgotten book of his father "with sallow scraps of manuscript" as is supplied by the poem which gives its title to the present volume.

That poem does indeed present to us the poet at his best, and is worthy to be placed by the side of the never-to-be-forgotten "Ulysses." From it we may quote the following striking passage which tells of the doom of blindness which fell upon the prophet, of the fatal mischance which led to it, and of the fatal results which followed it:—

> A tale, that told to me,
> When but thine age, by age as winter-white
> As mine is now, amazed, but made me yearn
> For larger glimpses of that more than man
> Which rolls the heavens, and lifts, and lays the deep,
> Yet loves and hates with mortal hates and loves,
> And moves unseen among the ways of men.
> Then, in my wanderings all the lands that lie
> Subjected to the Heliconian ridge
> Have heard this footstep fall, altho' my wont
> Was more to scale the highest of the heights
> With some strange hope to see the nearer God.
> One naked peak—the sister of the sun
> Would climb from out the dark, and linger there
> To silver all the valleys with her shafts—
> There once, but long ago, five-fold thy term
> Of years, I lay; the winds were dead for heat;
> The noonday crag made the hand burn; and sick
> For shadow—not one bush was near—I rose
> Following a torrent till its myriad falls
> Found silence in the hollows underneath.
> There in a secret olive-glade I saw
> Pallas Athene climbing from the bath
> In anger; yet one glittering foot disturb'd
> The lucid well; one snowy knee was prest
> Against the margin flowers; a dreadful light
> Came from her golden hair, her golden helm
> And all her golden armour on the grass,
> And from her virgin breast, and virgin eyes
> Remaining fixt on mine, till mine grew dark
> For ever, and I heard a voice that said
> "Henceforth be blind, for thou hast seen too much,
> And speak the truth that no man may believe."
> Son, in the hidden world of sight, that lives
> Behind this darkness, I behold her still,
> Beyond all work of those who carve the stone,
> Beyond all dreams of Godlike womanhood,
> Ineffable beauty, out of whom, at a glance,
> And as it were, perforce, upon me flash'd
> The power of prophesying—but to me
> No power—so chain'd and coupled with the curse
> Of blindness and their unbelief, who heard
> And heard not, when I spake of famine, plague,
> Shrine-shattering earthquake, fire, flood, thunderbolt
> And angers of the Gods for evil done
> And expiration lack'd—no power on Fate,
> Theirs, or mine own! for when the crowd would roar
> For blood, for war, whose issue was their doom,
> To cast wise words among the multitude
> Was flinging fruit to lions; nor, in hours
> Of civil outbreak, when I knew the twain
> Would each waste each, and bring on both the yoke
> Of stronger states, was mine the voice to curb
> The madness of our cities and their kings.
> Who ever turn'd upon his heel to hear
> My warning that the tyranny of one
> Was prelude to the tyranny of all?
> My counsel that the tyranny of all
> Led backward to the tyranny of one?
> This power hath work'd no good to aught that lives,
> And these blind hands were useless in their wars.
> O therefore that the unfulfill'd desire,
> The grief for ever born from griefs to be,
> The boundless yearning of the Prophet's heart—
> Could *that* stand forth, and like a statue, rear'd
> To some great citizen, win all praise from all
> Who past it, saying, "That was he!"
> In vain!
> Virtue must shape itself in deed, and those
> Whom weakness or necessity have cramp'd
> Within themselves, immerging, each, his urn
> In his own well, draw solace as he may.

This quotation is a lengthy one, but to mutilate it would be to rob it of its effect, and in its entirety it is a favourable specimen of the poet at his best. The next piece, "The Wreck," is not so much to our taste, and is conceived more in the spirit of the French novelist than of the English poet. "The Ancient Sage" is also a very prosy old personage, not worthy of a place in the volume, though his intrusion may be forgiven for the sake of the graceful lyrics with which his maunderings are interspersed. The best of these, however, only teaches the old lesson which was taught more tersely long ago by a greater English poet than Lord Tennyson, when he bade us mark how

> From Marlborough's eyes the tears of dotage flow,
> And Swift expires a driveller and a show.

But with these exceptions the volume strikes us as well calculated to enhance the writer's fame, and as exemplifying the infinite variety of his poetic style. It is certainly a remarkable show of fruit to be gathered from so old a tree, and, despite the age to which Lord Tennyson has attained, rivalling that of another and of a far less satisfactory Grand Old Man, there is certainly no evidence that his poetical strength has in any way abated. We have in "The Flight" a fine poem of the "Locksley "Hall" type, containing amongst others this striking stanza worthy of a place in any collection of Tennyson gems—

> He left us weeping in the woods; his boat was on the sand,
> How slowly down the rocks he went: how loth to quit the land
> And all my life was darkened as I saw the white sail run
> And darken, up that lane of light into the setting sun.

Next we have yet another "Idyl of the "King," which is introduced as an introduction to the well-known "Vivien." Though not to be classed among the poet's masterpieces, "Balin and Balan" strikes again that high note of true chivalry which distinguishes all the Idyls. The "Charge "of the Heavy Brigade' is a companion poem to the never-to-be-forgotten "Charge of the Light "Brigade," but we venture to think that Mr. Kinglake rather than Lord Tennyson is the true *vates sacer* of the glorious deeds which were done in that far Crimean land. Perhaps the most striking feature in the Laureate's reproduction of the poem which tells the story of General Scarlett, of his aide-de-camp Elliot, of his trumpeter, and of Shegog the orderly, so well known to Mr. Kingslake's readers, is the epilogue, in which an ideal young lady, with the suggestive name of Irene, remonstrates with the poet on "the "barbarism of wars." He responds to her challenge with a reaffirmation of the proposition already worked out in "Maud":—

> You wrong me, passionate little friend.
> I would that wars would cease,
> I would the globe from end to end
> Might sow and reap in peace,
> And some new Spirit o'erbear the old,
> Or Trade re-frain the Powers
> From war with kindly links of gold,
> Or Love with wreaths of flowers.
> Slav, Teuton, Kelt, I count them all
> My friends and brother souls,
> With all the peoples, great and small,
> That wheel between the poles.
> But since, our mortal shadow, Ill
> To waste this earth began—
> Perchance from some abuse of Will
> In worlds before the man
> Involving ours—he needs must fight
> To make true peace his own,
> He needs must combat might with might,
> Or Might would rule alone;
> And who loves War for War's own sake
> Is fool, or crazed, or worse;
> But let the Patriot-soldier take
> His meed of fame in verse;
> Nay—tho' that realm were in the wrong
> For which her warriors bleed,
> It still were right to crown with song
> The warrior's noble deed—
> A crown the Singer hopes may last,
> For so the deed endures.

And it is not only the warrior who does the deed, but the poet who tells of it, that merits his meed of praise. For, to quote the concluding stanza, in which Lord Tennyson well sums up his case,

> And here the singer for his Art
> Not all in vain may plead,
> "The Song that nerves a nation's heart
> Is in itself a deed."

Such strains as these are of special value in the present day, when we are so often told that the only English spirit has vanished, and that utilitarian considerations are alone to be regarded. Nor must we overlook the teaching of so old-fashioned a Liberal as the Laureate in regard to matters in which modern so-called Liberalism has broken so far away from its early traditions. There is far more of the modern Conservative than of the modern Liberal, in such a poem as that entitled "Freedom," with its concluding stanza descriptive of

> Men loud against all forms of power—
> Unfurnished brows, tempestuous tongues—
> Expecting all things in an hour—
> Brass mouths and iron tongues!

and we may, one and all, echo most heartily his aspiration in "Hands All Round"—

> Pray God our greatness may not fail
> Through craven fears of being great—

a maxim which should be inscribed in letters of gold over the portals of the Foreign Office, and, yet more, of the Colonial Office.

The "Spinster's Sweet-arts," which, if we mistake not, appears now for the first time, is a fresh experiment after the style of "The Northern "Farmer," and "To-morrow" is an extension of that experiment to the dialect of "ould Ireland." Both are interesting and successful, and "Despair" is a striking though not to our mind a pleasing poem. Nor should we omit to notice the lines to Virgil, written at the request of the Mantuans to celebrate the nineteenth century of the poet's death. This concludes with a noble tribute to one whom the romanticism of the present day is too much inclined to undervalue:—

> I salute thee, Mantovano,
> I that loved thee since my day began,
> Wielder of the stateliest measure
> Ever moulded by the lips of man.

There is also another Roman poet whose spirit has been no less effectively caught than that of the

> Poet of the happy Tityrus
> piping underneath his beechen bowers
> Poet of the poet-satyr
> whom the laughing shepherd bound with flowers;
> Chanter of the Pollio, glorying
> in the blissful years again to be,
> Summers of the snakeless meadow,
> unlaborious earth and earless sea;

We refer to Catullus, the sweet songster with whom yet more than with Virgil Lord Tennyson may claim affinity. Certainly no English poet has so well transmuted into his own tongue the spirit of his original as has been done in the "Frater Ave atque Vale" with which we conclude our notice:—

> Row us out from Desenzano, to your Sirmione row!
> So they row'd, and there we landed—"O venusta Sirmio!"
> There to me thro' all the groves of olive in the summer glow,
> There beneath the Roman ruin where the purple flowers grow,
> Came that "Ave atque Vale" of the Poet's hopeless woe,
> Tenderest of Roman poets nineteen-hundred years ago,
> "Frater Ave atque Vale"—as we wandered to and fro
> Gazing at the Lydian laughter of the Garda Lake below
> Sweet Catullus's all-but-island, olive-silvery Sirmio!

* *Tiresias, and Other Poems.* By Lord Tennyson.—London: Macmillan and Co., 1885.

SOME REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

Blackwood is excellent. "Fortune's Wheel takes a turn of vivid excitement. In "Helen "Faucit" a lady spectator well recalls the marvellous impersonations which Lady Martin reproduces with almost equal power and grace in her recent volume on *Shakespeare's Female Characters.* "A Visit to Tsusima" recounts another incident of Russian aggression in the Straits of Corea. "The Legend of Merlin and Kentigern," by J. S. B., is as good as can be expected in the decline of English verse. "The Scots and Eng-"lish Bowmen" will interest toxophilites. "The Attaché" may amuse some idlers in diplomacy. "The Crack of Doom" continues as poor as before. "The Great Britain Industrial "Company" bristles with the marvellous statistics of our commercial resources, significantly indicating the terrible strain of our one-sided free trade. The concluding paper on "Establishments "and Disestablishment" shows a far stronger case for England than for Scotland. The sacrilege, however, would be the same in both, and there is less temptation to it in the poorer Church.

When the *National Review* was published the result of the elections was known only in the boroughs. But the tone of congratulation in which the article on "The Electoral Triumph" was written is still quite justified. The most noteworthy paper in the number is Mr. Raikes's trenchant criticism of "The Radical Programme." The two articles on the National Church do not strike us as particularly well done. Mr. Mallock contributes the first instalment of a new novel,

which promises well. Mr. E. L. Pemberton's admirable paper on "Reform in the Tenure of "Land" deserves to be attentively read and pondered over. Mr. Arthur Mills temperately but effectively sums up the case against the late London School Board. His warnings with respect to the religious education in Board schools are specially valuable. Mr. G. N. Curzon's graceful and scholarly paper on "Poetry, Politics, and "Conservatism," and one or two other articles, complete the number.

The *Nineteenth Century* has rarely published a paper of equal merit with Mr. Gladstone's "Dawn "of Creation" last month. It now contains a reply from Dr. Huxley of a different character. That it is insolent, dogmatical, and illogical goes without saying, for these are the usual characteristics of this writer in dealing with believers in Revelation. He has never learnt the difference between simple apprehension and judgment. The study of natural science, which is indispensable to the formation of true premisses, seems to him identical with the power of inferring sound conclusions; and that not only in science, but in the wholly different fields of philosophy, morals, and religion. On the facts of natural science Dr. Huxley may speak with authority, though by no means with the absolutism he affects. But scientific knowledge is so far from being a qualification for pronouncing on Revelation, that it is not unfrequently the greatest obstacle to spiritual insight. On questions of the highest truth, a Christian carpenter, as Tertullian said, is wiser than a vainglorious sceptical philosopher. Dr. Huxley disputes the verdict of natural science on the fourfold order of creation, for which Mr. Gladstone cited Cuvier, Herschel, and Whewell. Cuvier has been dead for more than half-a-century, and new worlds of ancient life have been discovered since. *Nous avons changé tout cela.* Well! we must take the new evidence as we took the old, for what it is worth. We are not greatly moved either by the "solitary insect's wing discovered twelve months ago in Silurian rocks," or by the argument that the "non-discovery of scorpions" (in some other strata) affords no ground for supposing that they did not exist. But granting that Dr. Huxley knows more of palæontology than Mr. Gladstone, we have not the least doubt that Mr. Gladstone's observation on M. Réville that "he is wholly desti- "tute of that kind of knowledge which carries au- "thority" in the interpretation of Genesis is still more conspicuously true of the self-appointed "science proctor" who has intervened between the litigants. Professor Seeley complains of our Insular Ignorance, and the supercilious disregard to what other nations think of us which results from our insular position. The popular indifference to Foreign and Colonial Policy is a decadence of public morals and patriotism. Prince Kannitz said, "it is prodigious what these "Englishmen do not know;" and the Professor pathetically confesses he should like to see the day come again "when one might men- "tion the name of England without "raising a laugh." His remedy for this real political danger is a wider acquaintance with modern languages and literature. Our boys, however, have more to learn than they can manage at present. We want a sounder political education, the abandonment of the narrow insular legislation misnamed Liberal by which the nation has been so degraded under Mr. Gladstone's disastrous Administration, and the restoration of the sound Imperial policy which is now making itself felt in Europe. Lord Nelson proves that "Small Holdings" can always be had where they will pay. They yielded to the rage for high farming in the hope of greater production from the application of capital and science. The capital having disappeared in spite of science, there is a cry to return to the humbler system; but our Radicals are such hypocrites that they cannot trust their own free trade principles in the largest industry of the kingdom. The Duke of Argyll's paper on "Capital and the Improvement of the Land" is unanswerable; Mr. Fortescue Fox explains the interaction of "Stimulants and Narcotics," showing the use of each, and concluding in favour of temperance, not abstinence; Lord Bramwell pursues a favourite theme in explaining the bearing of "Insanity on Crime," reminding the doctors that insanity is a question of fact for the young, and not a matter of opinion to experts. Max Müller follows up his "Solar Myths." Prince Krapotkin expatiates on the favourite study of his nation, "Geography." The Dowager Countess of Shrewsbury sets forth the advantages of the Girls' Friendly Society. The composition of the New French Chamber is discussed by one of the deputies, M. Guyot; and Hobart Pasha gives a "Strategical View of Turkey." The other papers are "The Red Cross," in which Dr. Furley well insists on the necessity of a continuous organisation in time of peace, and a rather over-sympathising account by Constance Fletcher of the hapless young poet Leopardi.

The best paper in the *Contemporary* is M. Gabriel Monod's "Life and Thought in France." Substituting Mr. Gladstone for M. Ferry and the Moderate Liberals for the Opportunists, the political situation is singularly alike in the two countries. M. Ferry being discredited by his failures in Tonquin, like Mr. Gladstone in Egypt, both sought to avert the expected censure by enlarging and redistributing the voting power. Mr. Gladstone was by far the greater offender, but French patriotism exacted the severer revenge. In both countries the Liberal majority being in opposition, instead of holding together as they did in office, fell to pieces from the wild bidding of the Radical section. The chief difference was that the French with their keen political insight are not so amenable as our rustics to stump oratory, while their Conservative party is not to be compared with our own. In both countries, again, the Radical assault on the Church drove all her strength to the Conservative side, and with so much greater vigour in France that in the new Chamber they are the strongest party of the three. The proportions are almost identical if we adopt the French distribution of Right, Moderate Left, and Extreme Left, including Radicals and Parnellites. The same deadlock is threatened in both from the impossibility of forming an Administration strong enough to encounter a united opposition. As this is just "what everybody of any intelligence "expected" in France before the dissolution, so with us it is the no less logical result of an "umbrella" Cabinet. The Dean of Wells plumes himself on being a party by himself: he cannot agree with the arguments on either side of the controversy on Disestablishment and Disendowment. But this is only a piece of vanity; in reality he has nothing original to say. He thinks, as we all do, that Mr. Gladstone was bound to give the nation his own judgment on a question of such magnitude, and not "let the new voters be led to the poll like "dumb driven cattle by the Liberation Caucus." On the question itself the Dean writes very much like any other Dean, and, with the exception of one or two points which he has not studied with sufficient care, gives us a very sensible paper. In the matter of Church Reform the Dean has a better claim to his favourite part. Disagreeing (as we do) with all schemes for altering the Prayer-Book, exchange of pulpits, comprehension, and concurrent disendowment, he has no great confidence in reform of patronage, or increasing the power to deal with criminous and incompetent clergymen. His "more excellent way" is an "adequate repre- "sentation of the laity, somewhat on the lines of "Mr. Albert Grey's Parochial Councils, but free "from the objections that obviously attach to "that measure." The "freedom" seems to lie in substituting voluntary enrolment for the rating qualification—a change which Mr. Grey would probably consider a separation of Church and State, and which would certainly convert the National Church into an Episcopal, or rather Congregational, sect. Like the Dean of Wells, Principal Fairbairn wishes to be his own leader; hence his controversy with Cardinal Newman on Reason and Revelation makes no progress. The Principal is a Presbyterian and a Rationalist. To accept Revelation on the authority of the Church is to believe in the Church instead of God. The Bible itself is of no authority to him any further than it approves itself to his own reason. This is Rationalism; in Dr. Fairbairn's phrase it is believing in himself, not in God. Cardinal Newman considers this to be the highway to infidelity. The Cardinal holds that the province of reason is to reason—*i.e.*, to draw inferences from premisses vouchsafed by Revelation. He repeats in earnest what Hume said in irony, that religion is founded on faith, not on reason. The Church and the Scripture say precisely the same; but to the Principal this is "philosophical scepticism." "If "the reason plays no part in the genesis of the "idea of God, it can play no part in its proof." This is not the logic of our schools. Professor Sayce refers the origin of the alphabet to Egypt, which seems to be regaining her old repute as the mother of Greek civilisation. It is an interesting paper; but when the writer, following Dr. Isaac Taylor, talks about the "wonderful invention of "speech," we take leave to doubt if it ever was invented. "We 'spects it growed." The "Story "of the Bab," by Mary F. Wilson, is taken from Gabineau's *Religions et Philosophies dans l'Asie Centrale.* It describes the rise and progress of one of those sects that are continually arising from the Moslem doctrine of the Book. The Koran is divine, but Mohammedans having neither Church nor priesthood, every man is his own interpreter, and private judgment, as usual, multiplies tradition and schism. The "Bab" was an enthusiast named Mirza Ali Mohammed, born at Shiraz in 1824, and cruelly put to death by the Shah, together with a large number of devoted followers, including a beautiful prophetess who rejoiced in the poetical name of "Consolation of "the Eyes." "The Present and Future State of "Friendly Societies" is the subject of a hopeful paper by the Rev. W. W. Edwards. Mr. Freeman discusses "Bulgaria and Servia," not at all to King Milan's advantage; and Mr. Gamaliel Bradford enlightens us on "Government in the "United States." Professor Stokes gives a valuable list of Fayûm MSS. at Berlin and Vienna, under the head of "Contemporary Records."

In *Macmillan* Mr. Andrew Lang is whimsically exercised by Mr. Courthope's "war cry" of a Liberal Movement in English Literature. He objects to the union of Poetry and Politics. A paper on "Irish Shootings" is a story of the kind of sport indulged in by the "finest pisintry "in the world." A murderous foutrage is headed by a rejected suitor, whose ladylove chops off his fingers with a bill-hook by way of accepting the offer of his hand, thrust through a hole in the door to remove the bar that defended the entrance. A translator of Shakespeare, "quite unknown in "England, and perhaps in Germany," is introduced in the person of Wolf, Count Baudissin, whose honours, it seems, were unjustly appropriated by Ludwig Tieck. Mr. Wilson's "Definitions of Church Authority" remind us of the famous chapter on "Snakes in Ireland." "A Walk "in the Faroes" is more to the purpose and much pleasanter. We are pleased to hear that Sir Walter was not so far wrong on the death of Amy Robsart as the pedants assert. It is true she was not Countess of Leicester, and never at Kenilworth, but she was Dudley's wife, and believed at the time to have been put out of the way with a view to marriage with the Queen. There were *two* Richard Varneys, and Anthony Forster, though a member of Parliament, was strongly suspected of being a scoundrel. The characters are by no means incompatible. "Mrs. Dymond," after another street fight in Paris, is at last married again, and done for. Miss Ross gives a pretty sketch of the contrast between "Old Florence and "Tuscany."

The American *Church Eclectic* contains among its original matter a most sound criticism of Dr. Farrar's theology from the pen of Dr. Wilson. As for the other articles, while we naturally feel honoured by the number of extracts from our own columns which find a place in the pages of the *Eclectic*, we must express the deepest regret at its reproduction from a Ritualistic contemporary of a disgraceful attack upon the revered John Henry Newman, whose views are entirely misrepresented. The accusation against him of really teaching scepticism is merely borrowed without acknowledgment from two flimsy papers contributed by Dr. Fairbairn to the *Contemporary Review*, to the last of which we have alluded above.

The *Antiquary* is a fair number. Mr. J. T. Bent's account of the travels of the Jesuits among the Japanese and Mr. Solly's paper on Steele's *Christian Hero* are both good. Mr. Carew Hazlitt's notes on ancient sports and games are sketchy but interesting; so is a contemporary account of the rebellion of Lord Essex. Mr. Ford's article on ordeals and oaths is decidedly readable; but why should the two subjects be treated together?

Walford's Antiquarian is well up to the mark, the principal papers being the editor's own "Chronicles of Greenwich," a first instalment of Mrs. Boger's "King Ina in Somerset," and an account of St. Paul's School by Mr. Milliken.

The *Army and Navy Magazine* opens with three more chapters of Colonel Mattheson's account of Prince Eugene. The other articles are not very noteworthy, but "The Captain's Yarns" is amusing.

The conductors of the *Illustrated Science Monthly* must excuse us for thinking that the title of "Illustrated" is rather cheaply earned by a magazine containing only one solitary illustration, and that of a most insignificant kind. And, for a periodical that professes to be "popular," the highly technical articles on "Electric Lighting" and "Irrigation" appear scarcely suitable.

The October number of the American theological quarterly, the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, contains some interesting articles, the best of which is Dr. Hayman's paper on "The Oldest Christian "Sermon"—that preached, probably by Eusebius, at the re-dedication of his metropolitan church by Paulinus, Bishop of Tyre. Professor Martin, of New York, discusses the records of "Primitive "Man in America;" Mr. W. H. Cobb, in a learned and rather heavy essay on "Biblical "Psychology," disputes Delitzsch's positions; Dr. Chalmers criticises Dr. Briggs's strictures on the Revised Version; and Professor Schodde contributes a translation from the Ethiopic rendering of the Greek version of the original Hebrew *Book of Jubilees*—the work of a Palestinian Jew of the first century. The book is a commentary on portions of Genesis and Exodus, and a good sample of an exegetical Targum of the Apostolic age. Dr. Herrick's paper on what are called the "moral "difficulties" of the Old Testament is not very satisfactory, and the subject has been far better treated by other writers, such as Dr. Mozley. Dr. Brand's article on the English opium traffic with China is a foolish and hysterical outburst, quite unworthy of a place in a sober periodical.

SOME MORE CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

Though the readers of our last week's supplement will be ready to acknowledge how hard we have worked in dealing with the great mass of giftbook literature for the present season which has accumulated upon our table, there still remain some additional contributions to that literature which require notice. Of these some have been overlooked, through no demerit of their own, but simply from want of time and opportunity to deal with them. Others have reached us since the publication of our supplement, and so could not be included in it. We, therefore, propose now to notice briefly a few of these stragglers.

First we come across three books published by Messrs. Hatchards. *That Child* bears on its title-page the additional recommendation of being by the author of *Mademoiselle Mori*, which is in itself a sufficient guarantee of excellence; nor are those who are induced to purchase it on the faith of that guarantee likely to be disappointed. *Among the Carbonari*, by Mr. G. Stebbing, is a tale for boys descriptive of the adventures of the youthful hero when brought into contact with the secret society from whose clutches he fortunately escapes before his brain has given way under the accumulated horrors of his position, which are graphically described. *Halcyon and Asphodel* brings us back from these stern but unusual realities to the more beaten track of fairyland, and it is pleasant to come across a new addition to that branch of literature, which has an attraction that is ever new for youthful readers. But they are told with a certain tone of sceptical ridicule which will perhaps interfere with the thorough enjoyment of them by youthful readers. For example, we doubt if the thoroughpaced lover of fairy tales will be altogether satisfied to hear of a King who, when setting forth in search of a fairy godmother, puts on an extra thick crown, a pair of goloshes, and a mackintosh.

At Granny's (Masters and Co.) is a delightful description of the way in which Jack and Jill, aged respectively six and five, spent ten days at their Granny's without their father and mother. Of course they distinguished themselves as did *Helen's Babies;* and the recital of their various achievements make a most pleasant story that will be eagerly read by young people as well as by those of older growth.

Lady Dunboyne, whose stories are always a source of delight to those who read them, has, in *Letty's Mission* (Masters), made a most acceptable addition to her list of works. The tale, the perusal of which by its young readers will be attended with considerable pleasure, conveys many wholesome lessons, and shows that the simple teaching and persuasion of a little child can often effect more good than the doctrinal teaching of her elders.

The Incumbent of Axhill (Masters and Co.), a story which we notice has already reached a second edition, deserves, and will no doubt attain to as wide a popularity as the story to which it is the sequel—*The Chorister Brothers.* One cannot help following with unabated interest the course of Ambrose Hayward's life, and sympathising with him in his difficulties, temptations, troubles, and loneliness. The story is a thoroughly good one, told with much simplicity, and is deserving of the highest commendation.

The Seven Juvenile Plays of Mr. George Fuller (Marcus Ward and Co.) reached us too late for notice with the bulk of the Christmas literature which we recently surveyed. But at the holiday season, when small plays for small actors are so much in request, an addition to their dramatic *répertoire* is not to be overlooked. Mr. Fuller confesses to a free use of doggerel to help out the memories of the youthful performers to whom the interpretation of his dramas is committed. We think that in some cases he has gone rather too far, and should recommend the stage manager to go carefully through the text before the first rehearsal. But with not a few judicious excisions in passages of questionable taste or of undue prolixity a very satisfactory result might be arrived at.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. have reprinted the Author's Revised Edition of Washington Irving's *Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, with the Chart, Appendices, and Index, which add so much to this well-known and fascinating work. The book is prettily got up in three volumes cloth, and the moderate price makes it in these hard times a very acceptable addition to the list of Christmas gifts. There could be no better present to young or old readers of either sex. We have read it again with as much interest as ever.

Messrs. Cassell have published an addition to their series of *Little Folks' Painting Books* which supplies *Fruits and Blossoms* for youthful artists to paint, in accordance with patterns which are supplied on the opposite page. We doubt if there is a sufficient opportunity for the liberal use of brilliant colours for the book to be altogether acceptable to the beginners for whose use it is intended. But those who have made some progress in painting will be attracted by it, and Mr. Albert Warren, who has supplied the designs, must be congratulated on the taste which he has shown in his selection of subjects and his artistic if unpopular moderation in his use of colour.

Mr. Stanley Lane Poole has supplemented the volume of *Selections from the Prose Writings of Jonathan Swift* which he has supplied to Messrs. Kegan Paul and Co.'s *Parchment Library* by a selection from *Swift's Letters and Journals*, with a running commentary and notes. The former collection was designed to exhibit the best specimens of the prose style of the famous Dean, while the present selection purports to illustrate his manner of life, his friendships, and his tastes. It is obvious that the interest of the one differs in kind from the interest of the other, being more personal than literary, and Mr. Poole maintains that the man had a warmer heart than the author would allow us to believe. This may be regarded as the text, the teaching of which he has enforced by the selection here supplied. Though we may be allowed to doubt whether he has not formed too favourable an estimate of the man, still it is well that the writer, who is traditionally regarded as a morose cynic, should be represented at his best in his letters as a corrective to the impression derived from his literary works. The editor does not labour under one difficulty which hampered him in the previous volume, for the *Letters* are not impregnated with the same indelicacy as the *Prose Writings*. But we cannot so completely as he has done disassociate the one from the other; nor with the indisputed facts of the Dean's biography before us can we agree in his dictum that "there "is nothing in all literature more tender "than the Journal to Stella." This supplies a large part of the present volume, and the letters here extracted have been carefully collated with the original manuscript in the British Museum. Most of the other letters are taken from the text of Sir Walter Scott; but one of them, that to Archdeacon Walls at p. 42, now appears for the first time. We regret that Mr. Poole should, in deference to the critics of his previous volume, have abstained from giving us "a critical disquisi- "tion upon Swift as a letter-writer," for such a disquisition would have added to the value of the volume now before us; and from the too scanty tastes of his quality which the editor has given us, we should judge that he would have been well qualified to add to his reader's enjoyment of the letters here selected by a critical estimate of the position among letter-writers which is to be

assigned to one of the most remarkable if one of the least pleasing celebrities in our literature.

We have received from Mr. Henry Frowde some very clearly-printed and choicely-bound copies of the Prayer-Book, which have been specially prepared in anticipation of the requirements of the public at this season of the year, when the Book of Common-Prayer is so generally chosen as an acceptable gift-book. They are very excellent specimens of what can be procured at Mr. Frowde's warehouse.

Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. have, as usual, provided a charming variety of Christmas and New Year's cards that are marked by freshness and originality of design and excellence of execution. The representation of pictures of the old masters in the shape of cards for the season has this year been attempted, and the reproduction of masterpieces of Fra Angelico, in the galleries of Florence, has been very skilfully and successfully carried out. The series of hunting sketches by Miss G. Bowers, contained in tiny volumes, is an idea that is certain to be appreciated; and the yachting sketches, entitled "White Wings," are secure of favour. Of cards of a less ambitious kind Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. furnish a huge selection that caters for all tastes and will not fail to gratify the most exacting of demands.

Correspondence.

THE LAST ENCYCLICAL.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—I hope the clergy of the Church of England will note how touchingly and generously the Holy Father writes of their efforts to maintain Christian education in England, in his latest Encyclical. A more remarkable document has not been issued for years. May it help to draw us all together towards the source of Christian authority and Catholic unity!

Yours obediently,
FREDERICK GEORGE LEE.

All Saints', Lambeth, Dec. 17.

[Though we do not admit that the See of Rome is "the source of Christian authority and Catholic unity," we agree with our correspondent's estimate of the character of the Encyclical, and with his aspirations for Unity among Christians in withstanding the anti-Christian principles of the Revolution.—Ed. *J. B.*]

REFORMS IN THE CHURCH.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—One of the reforms which the Church has it in her power to advance to the great advantage of the community at large is that connected with our mode of burying the dead. Not many years ago many abuses were regarded with comparative unconcern—delayed interment, extravagant mourning, paraphernalia, crushing expenditure, evasive burial in imperishable coffins in brick graves, and burial-places choked up with human remains.

Let the Church direct the growing feeling in favour of altering all this. She has but to put into practice what is implied by the words "corpse," "body," "earth to earth," in her "Order for the Burial of the Dead," by encouraging the custom of burying in perishable coffins, each in its own grave, in earth sufficient for the complete and proper resolution of the body to its constituent elements, and by setting an example of economy, simplicity, and good taste, she will thereby confer upon the nation that which will be a credit to Christianity, and a boon to the poor. I am, your obedient servant,

F. LAWRENCE, Hon. Sec.,
Church of England Funeral Reform Association.
Westow Vicarage, York, Dec. 16.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

The Rev. J. E. Rudd, Rector of Covenham St. Mary, writes:—"The ensuing month of January will open with stormy weather. The 4th is likely to be exceptionally rough and stormy. The temperature during the month will vary; in the first week and during the last fortnight it will be cold. The 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 22nd, and 29th will be more or less rough and stormy. The aspect of the year is eventful and most momentous; it will be one of the most disastrous years in this decade or in this century."

The late Lord Dudley's famous Raphael, "The Three Graces," has just been sold for £25,000, to his Royal Highness the Duc d'Aumale. One of the most justly famous of cabinet pictures now in English collections is destined, therefore, to leave this country. "The Three Graces," though the work of an early period of the master's career, is unusually full of the true Renaissance spirit. Indeed, it was suggested by an antique in Central Italy. It is an engraved picture. A drawing in preparation for it—with the third figure, that on the right hand, not yet included—is to be seen in the Academy at Venice.

The official programme of the performances to be given next summer at Bayreuth has been issued. *Parsifal* will be given nine times, and *Tristan und Isolde* eight times; Mondays and Fridays being assigned to the former opera and Sundays and Thursdays to the latter. There will be no fewer than four conductors—namely, Hermann Levi, Hans Richter, Felix Mollt, and Anton Seibl. Franz Fischer, who took so much pains to ensure the success of former festivals, must this year remain at Munich to superintend the performances to be given at the Royal Opera House there in August. The orchestra will include 110 experienced performers. The direction of the costumes has been given in charge to the historical painter, Professor Flüggen, of Munich.

Sir John Millais has taken great personal interest in arranging the exhibition of his works that is to be opened at the Grosvenor Gallery in the first week in January. About 140 pictures, besides some minor sketches and studies, will be shown. These will be divided into groups—namely, landscapes, composition subjects, and portraits. The pictures, we understand, will be so arranged that the visitor, by crossing from one side of the room to the other, will be enabled to compare the early pre-Raphaelite manner of the painter with his later and bolder style.

A special feature of the winter exhibition at the Royal Academy is to be the new water-colour room, where the very finest of the Turner water-colour drawings will be hung singly in separate spaces on the walls. The number of Turner's drawings is so large that the Royal Academy has arranged to have several exhibitions of them in following winters, which will be more or less in chronological order; but this winter the show will consist of the best drawings from the finest collections, including those of Mr. Ruskin, Mr. Fawkes, of Farnley; Mr. Leach, Mr. J. E. Taylor, Sir Acland Hood, and others, who have consented to lend them.

An interesting account of the daily life and musical methods of Wagner at his villa at Bayreuth has just been given. The usual course of work was from six in the morning until noon. Those six hours were given to composition or the working out of ideas. It may be said that Wagner never searched for a musical idea. The poem finished, it was merely necessary for him to conjure up the scene and the words—the complemental music would come of itself. In composing he would write on big white sheets a notation inexplicable to any one but his intimates and his printers. He trusted no one to write out the orchestral scores, but did it all himself. After it was done, instrumentation and all, nothing was altered, and he never heard a note of it until the performance came. He knew exactly what the musical effect would be. The rapidity and ease with which Wagner composed was marvellous; in one morning he often filled six or eight big sheets with music for the printers. In the afternoon a walk was usual, and then in the evening his family and friends gathered in the music-room for an evening of music.

On Wednesday evening, for the third and last time, the *Andria* of Terence was played before an appreciative audience by boys belonging to Westminster School. The prologue dealt in sympathetic terms with the cause which had prevented this dramatic entertainment taking place last December. The Duke of Albany's untimely death postponed a festival which, as the preliminary speech declared, had been originally founded by Royalty. Passing on to matters affecting the school, the deaths of Sir Robert Phillimore and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn were mentioned with regret; and the prospect of new school buildings was treated of hopefully. Then followed the play itself, of which it is enough to say that the young actors have all considerably improved since the first representation; the Simo of Mr. Withers and the Pamphilus of Mr. James both especially being much more spirited and natural. The epilogue, an original Latin farce dealing with the politics of the day, was well acted, and fitly terminated a good all-round performance.

Prominent amongst the holiday arrangements of the Christmas season 1885-86 at the Crystal Palace is the grand pantomime *Cinderella*, written by Mr. F. C. Burnand, and produced by Mr. Augustus Harris, with the assistance of Mr. Charles Harris as stage manager. The production will be, it is needless to state, on the scale of magnitude demanded by the vast area occupied by the audience. The scenery will be by Messrs. Fenton, Johnson, G. Hicks, and Emden; the music by Mr. Oscar Barrett, and the ballets and other dances have been specially arranged by Mr. John D'Auban. The pantomime will be produced on Tuesday, the 22nd inst. A novel feature throughout the Christmas holidays will be a Children's Fancy Fair, to be held in the West Corridor, wherein a series of elegantly-decorated booths have been constructed, and will be occupied by stores of all kinds of fancy wares suitable for presents. Swings, roundabouts, and other such aids to juvenile enjoyment will also form part of this new addition to the holiday entertainments.

The Lyceum was crowded on Saturday evening to witness the performance of *Louis XI.* After the performance Mr. Irving came before the curtain in obedience to the call of the audience. He expressed his gratitude for the manner in which the efforts of the company had been received, hoped that it would be long indeed ere such enthusiasm as had been witnessed that evening would die out from among playgoers, and concluded with an invitation to all present to visit the theatre on the following Saturday, when *Faust* would be acted and illustrated in a style which, he trusted, would meet with the approval of the public.

The collection of objects of antiquity and art, the property of the Rev. Dr. Neligan, for many years rector and vicar of St. Mary, Shandon, and St. Catherine, Cork, Ireland, was disposed of last week. The following were the most important items:—A gold torque, formed of a spirally-twisted band of pure gold, diminishing in width towards the clasps, discovered, with several others, in a mound of earth at Innishowen, county Donegal, July, 1882, 14in. long, £18 (Rollin); a silver torque, engraved with transverse lines on both sides, found at Rathcormac, county Cork, probably unique, 14in. long, £8 (Ready); the sword of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, leader of the Irish Rebellion of 1798, ivory handle studded with silver, inscribed "Cullam, Charing-cross, for Harmer O'Connell, Esq., 1782," a fine steel blade with serrated back, £6 6s. (Whitaker); a curious silver reliquary in the shape of a heart crowned, formerly belonging to the Douglas family, one of whom carried the heart of Robert Bruce to Palestine, £3 3s. (Rollin); a group of six Japanese men and women engaged in some occult ceremony, 12 guineas (Welby); the portrait of Mrs. Yates, of Morne Abbey, county Kildare, signed S. Lover, R.H.A., £1 15s. (Ellis); Sir Walter Raleigh's tobacco pipe, silver bowl, and wooden stem mounted with silver; on the rim of the bowl are the letters "Sir W. R., 1583," £7 5s. The collection realised £516.

In the all-important matter of situation London, though certainly not to be compared with Edinburgh, or Rome, or Naples, or Stockholm, or in its peculiar way with Venice, is (says Professor Blackie in *Cassell's Magazine*) by no means destitute of attractions. Originally, when in ante-Roman times the old Celtic fort or dun occupied the site of the ground where St. Paul's now stands, the prominence of the position was more notable than it can be now. Still the ascent from Lower Thames-street, and all along the river up to Blackfriars bridge, is marked enough to redeem the situation from the absolute insipidity which is entailed on such situations as those of Dublin and Berlin. Seen from the river, the original old London, now crowned by the weighty dome—the masterpiece of Wren—towers up with a quiet grandeur wonderfully impressive; and not only in this central quarter, but all along through High Holborn to Bayswater and Notting-hill, London stands on an elevation that, by the happy intervention of a long line of parks—fully three miles from Westminster to Kensington Palace—gives it an opportunity of displaying itself which no other city possesses in an equal degree. Abolish the parks and abolish the river, and London would lose as much as Edinburgh by the sinking of her castled ridge or the drying-up of her islanded estuary. But, happily, none of these contingencies are possible. The parks are one of those beneficial legacies which, by happy chance or wise disposition, have been transferred from the lordship of the few to the enjoyment of the great mass of the people; while the river, so far from being destroyed by the ever-increasing population of the Titanic metropolis, has in these latter days received tasteful embellishments, such as the banks of few other urban rivers can surpass. A great river is always a grand feature in a town; and were it not for the adjacent Frith, the Scottish capital would feel much more acutely than she does the want of such a picturesque and inspiring adjunct. No doubt it is better to have no river at all in the middle of a town than a hollow filled with water creeping sluggishly along, half dead and half alive, as in the Liffey, in Dublin, or the Spree, in Berlin. Such rivers suggest the idea of degenerating into the inferior genus of a ditch; and all ideas of degeneracy and decadence are disagreeable. But a real river, that flows and swells, is one of the greatest beauties that a great city can possess, and, like charity, covers a multitude of sins. Why? Obviously, because a river brings the country, which is the garden of God, and the best part of the country, with exhaustless energy into the town—the part of the country which is most suggestive of freshness, and vigour, and vitality, and which not only suggests freshness, but creates it wherever it appears, as any man may learn experimentally who will go from Westminster-bridge to the Mansion House by the Underground Railway, and return, not underground, but above water, in the Thames steamboat, for the small sum of 1d.; and not only 1d., but an additional 6d. or 1s. would be well bestowed for such a refreshing restorative to lungs faint and flaccid with the super-fœtation of carbonic acid gas which the Underground Railway suffers under in the month of July.

A curious account has been preserved, says the *Magazine of Art*,—in a MS. by Peter le Neve, Norroy King-at-Arms—of the way in which the bed of Henry VII. was made in his palaces of Shene and elsewhere. From his time Court ceremonial, and perhaps it may be said in general modern manners, were brought under some kind of definite rules. The old feudal system came to an end on Bosworth Field. Old families had been destroyed or decimated by the civil wars. Henceforth Kings were supreme. Renaissance manners were in full swing all over Europe. This is the way his Majesty's bed was to be made—"The curtains must be drawn (the spelling is modernised), and a gentleman usher must hold the curtains together; then must two squires of the body stand at the bed's head, and two yeomen of the crown at the bed's feet, and all the stuff laid safe at the bed's feet on a carpet till the contents of the palliasse (which was open in the middle) were re-made. Then a yeoman to leap upon the bed and roll him up and down and array the litter; then to lay down the canvas again, then the feather bed, and beat it well and make it even and smooth. Then take the fustian (under blanket) and cast it upon the bed without any wrinkles, and the sheet in the same wise." Then follow directions regarding the sheet, how it is to be stroked smooth, tucked under the feather bed, over it is to be laid "t'other stuff," upper sheet, blankets, and fustian, and over that a covering of marten's fur and ermine. "A yeoman to beat the pillows and throw them up to the squires to lay them on the bed head, as pleaseth the King's grace." A sheet of Rennes was passed under the pillows, falling over loose in front (no pillow-case), over that a rug of ermine. The bed clothes were then to be brought well up to the pillows and turned down the space of an ell. It is added that when all was done these functionaries withdrew behind the curtain that divided the room and had a drink all round.

The *Revue Générale des Chemins de Fer* publishes a statement of the length of railways open for traffic in Europe on December 31, 1884, as compared with the mileage open at the same date in 1883. Germany heads the list with 36,737 kilomètres of railway, as against 35,908 kilomètres in December, 1883; increase during the year, 829 kilomètres, or 2·31 per cent. Next follows France with 31,216 kilomètres, against 29,714 kilomètres (increase, 1,502 kilomètres, or 5·05 per cent.); Great Britain and Ireland, 30,514 kilomètres, against 30,179 kilomètres (increase, 335 kilomètres, or 1·11 per cent.); Russia and Finland, 25,391 kilomètres against 24,888 kilomètres (increase), 503 kilomètres, or 2·02 per cent.); Austria, 22,106 kilomètres, against 20,857 kilomètres (increase, 1,249 kilomètres, or 5·99 per cent.); Italy, 9,925 kilomètres, against 9,455 kilomètres (increase, 470 kilomètres, or 4·97 per cent.); Spain, 8,663 kilomètres, against 8,251 kilomètres (increase, 412 kilomètres, or 4·99 per cent.); Sweden and Norway, 8,162 kilomètres, against 7,960 kilomètres (increase, 202 kilomètres, or 2·24 per cent.); Belgium, 4,319 kilomètres, against 4,273 kilomètres (increase, 46 kilomètres, or 1·08 per cent.); Switzerland, 2,761 kilomètres, against 2,750 kilomètres (increase, 11 kilomètres, or 0·40 per cent.); Holland and Luxemberg, 2,654 kilomètres, against 2,521 kilomètres (increase, 133 kilomètres, or 5·28 per cent.); Denmark, 1,944 kilomètres, against 1,813 kilomètres (increase, 131 kilomètres, or 7·23 per cent.); Roumania, 1,602 kilomètres, against 1,520 kilomètres (increase, 82 kilomètres, or 5·39 per cent.); Portugal, 1,527 kilomètres against 1,494 kilomètres (increase, 33 kilomètres, or 2·21 per cent). Turkey, Bulgaria, and Roumelia do not show an increase in the mileage of their railways during 1884, which had a length of 1,394 kilomètres in December, 1883; nor do the railways of Servia, with 244 kilomètres. Greece, on the contrary, increased her railways from 22 kilomètres in 1883 to 175 kilomètres in 1884. The total length of European railways on December 31, 1883, was 189,334 kilomètres, compared with 182,999 kilomètres on December 31, 1883. The aggregate increase was 6,335 kilomètres, or 3·46 per cent.

Some interesting facts in connection with the influence of occupations on mortality appear in the supplement to the forty-fifth report of the Registrar-General. It is shown that on the average the agriculturists have a comparative mortality figure of 644, the shop-keepers of 877, and the tailors, hatters, printers, and bookbinders of 1,088. Living in a vitiated atmosphere seriously affects the respiratory organs. The mortality from diseases of these organs and from phthisis, taken together, is 198 for the fishermen and 237 for the agriculturists; while for drapers and grocers it averages 357, and for tailors and printers, 549. As drapers live in a more vitiated air than grocers, and printers than tailors, so the mortality in these several trades corresponds to the differences in each case. Arranging the various industries in the order of purity of air, the following are the averages of deaths from phthisis and diseases of the respiratory system: Fishermen, 168; agriculturists, 237; grocers, 283; drapers, 430; tailors, 471; and printers, 627. As regards chimney-sweeps, the death rates are lower than in the previous record, but still are exceedingly high, and give a comparative mortality figure of no less than 1,519. Cancer is a prolific cause of death among chimney-sweeps. Out of 242 deaths in which the causes were ascertained, there were forty-nine due to forms of malignant disease. This is equal to 202 deaths from this cause to 1,000 deaths from all causes; whereas the proportion of deaths from malignant disease to deaths from all causes among males of from twenty-five to thirty years of age in England and Wales is only 36 in 1,000. The liability of chimney-sweeps to malignant disease is about eight times as great as the average liability for all males.

CHURCH "REFORM."

The Rev. Dr. Trevor, Canon of York, writing to the *Guardian* on "Church Reform," observes that it is the height of injustice to call upon the Bishops and clergy to reform the Church, when the laity represented in Parliament are the whole and sole obstacle to reform. On one point the Cambridge manifesto offers a striking commentary on the parable of the camel and the gnat. The most flagrant offenders in the matter of lay patronage are the University colleges, who buy and confer livings as a provision for superannuated Fellows without the slightest regard to the spiritual needs of the parish. A Fellow who, being in orders, passes living after living till he secures the first prize at threescore years of age, and then exchanges the luxurious culture of the combination or common room for a country village where he has not one single sympathy with his parishioners, is a far greater scandal than a curate whose friends get him in by purchase. The simplest and most effective reform would be for the colleges to sell all their livings above £300 a year and apply the proceeds to the augmentation of the rest, after the example of the Lord Chancellor's admirable Act. As to the cry against the "traffic in livings," lay patronage is not a trust for the spiritual good of the parishioners; it is the one thing which the founder reserved out of the trust as a privilege to himself and his heirs. The spiritual trust is in the Bishop, and the remedy against all abuses of the lay privilege is to refuse institution. Advowsons have always been transferrable by gift, sale, or exchange, as well as by inheritance. To forbid the same right with single presentations is like telling a butcher he may sell a loin of mutton but not a mutton-chop. All patronage is liable to abuse, but there is no shadow of proof that holders of single presentations make worse appointments than other patrons. No one pretends that the clergymen so presented are as a rule less efficient than others. Experience is rather the other way; it is for the Bishops to deal with the exceptions. Sweep away the *quare impedit* and set the Bishop free to refuse institution for any cause assigned. A summary appeal to the Archbishop and the Lord Chancellor would be protection enough for all honest patrons: the dishonest would not venture to face it. Of course, the laity would demand a similar restraint on the Bishop's own patronage: his collations might be subject to the consent of the Dean and Chapter, as temporal appointments and leases are now with appeal to the Archbishop. Subject to such provisions, the sale of single presentations is much to be encouraged. It diffuses the lay interest in the Establishment, diversifies the chances of preferment, and opens a door to earnest men without family interest. It would be a decided improvement if the Lord Chancellor could sell single presentations and keep the advowsons in the Crown. At all events, nothing could be worse than to limit lay patronage to a class of aristocratic and territorial inheritors, and then try to check it by a congregational veto. This is exactly what produced the disruption in the Scottish Establishment. The demand for Lay Representation is still more hazy. No one has yet faced the initial difficulty of distinguishing between the Church laity and the national laity. Baptism is too wide a test, the other Sacrament is too narrow, ratepaying is no test at all. There remains only the "*bonâ fides*" phantom, which is a mere matter of sentiment. It suffices for Parochial Councils, Diocesan Conferences, Central Councils, and Lay Houses, so long as they have no sort of *status* or function known to the law. Before any legal power can be given each must have a distinct legal constituency. At present, in spite of all sentimental theories, the Church is co-extensive with the State—*i.e.*, the Church established by law is the same body with the Church of the rubrics and Articles. When our reformers have succeeded in shutting off a select company of Churchmen by private judgment they will have exchanged the parochial and Episcopal basis for the Congregational, and the Liberation Society will thankfully put up the shutters.

On the same subject "J. B." writes:—"The memorialists of Cambridge who advocate the establishment of Parochial Councils can have had little practical experience of parochial work. There are thirty-two names appended to the memorial, and of these fourteen are those of laymen; ten those of clergymen who have never had a parochial charge; eight are the names of clergymen who have, some of them, held curacies for short periods, or held benefices attached to their professorships, and who, consequently, must, in great measure, be non-resident. Two or three, however, are those of clergymen who have had preferments, but not of such a kind as to entitle them to speak authoritatively on the important subject of introducing lay influence into parishes as a check to, or control over, the incumbents."

MR. GLADSTONE AND HOME RULE.

The *Standard* on Thursday announced that it was in a position to state that the following are the lines on which Mr. Gladstone, on taking office, would be prepared to deal with the question of Home Rule for Ireland. The maintenance of the unity of the Empire, the authority of the Crown, and the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament to be assured. The creation of an Irish Parliament, to be entrusted with the entire management of all legislative and administrative affairs, securities being taken for the representation of minorities, and for an equitable partition of all Imperial charges. One of the guarantees suggested would probably be the nomination of a certain proportion of the Irish members by the Crown.

The National Press Agency, to which Mr. Gladstone's Manifesto was intrusted for publication in September, has issued the following statement about the ex-Premier and Home Rule :—

"Mr. Gladstone has definitely adopted the policy of Home Rule for Ireland, and there are well-founded hopes that he will win over the chief representatives of the moderate section of the party to his views. Lord Spencer is practically convinced that no other policy is possible, and his authority as the Minister who has governed Ireland during a most troublous time is unimpeachable. There are only two alternatives—coercion and conciliation. Coercion has been made well-nigh impossible by the action of the Tories, its chief champions; and in no circumstances will the Liberal party ever consent to exceptional repressive legislation for Ireland again. Conciliation can be effectual on one condition—the support of Mr. Parnell, and this would be granted only to a measure for the establishment of a Parliament in Dublin. Mr. Gladstone is fully aware of the necessity of guarantees for the adequate protection of the minority in Ireland. It is not unlikely that Mr. Parnell would consent to a system of proportional representation; and in any case the position of the landlords would be thoroughly discussed and safeguarded by the new Act. It is not intended to exclude the Irish party from the House of Commons. They would still share in the deliberations of the British Parliament in Imperial affairs. Nor does Mr. Gladstone propose to give the Parliament at Westminster any veto on the proceedings of the Parliament at Dublin. Such a veto will be exercised by the Crown only on the advice of the Irish Ministry. It is not expected that there would be any necessity to revise the Acts of the Dublin Parliament with regard to the commercial relations between the two countries. Mr. Parnell's suggestion of a protective tariff does not meet with the approval of all his colleagues; and if it were carried out the first to suffer would be the Irish people.

"Mr. Gladstone holds none of the gloomy views prevalent in some quarters about the probable action of an Irish Legislature. It is not likely that the composition of that Legislature would be at all similar to the present *personnel* of the Irish party in the House of Commons. That party has been primarily elected to annoy and harass the British Government. It represents Irish unity on one great question—the recovery of Irish legislative independence. As soon as that question is settled, the unity will vanish, and all the sectional differences of the Irish people will reappear. The forces of intelligence, the wealth, and the interests of every class of the population will assert themselves; and the members returned to the Parliament in Dublin will be vastly different in every respect from those who represent Ireland now at Westminster. The formation of a strong Opposition in the Irish Parliament will be comparatively easy; and Mr. Parnell will be entirely indisposed to take any steps in the direction of separation. The strength of the Separatists is much overrated. There is probably not more than one of Mr. Parnell's Parliamentary followers who wishes to see Ireland absolutely independent. Mr. Gladstone is sanguine that this policy of settling the Irish question once for all will commend itself to the majority of his party and to the English people when it is clearly understood that no other course can bring real peace. If he is enabled to eject the Government on this issue, he will have a large majority in the House of Commons for his Irish Bill, and he believes that the House of Lords, weighing the gravity of the situation, will not reject it. Should there be a sufficient defection of the Moderate Liberals to encourage the Lords to throw out the Bill, a dissolution would be inevitable; but, except in the event of any serious explosion in Ireland that would have the effect of exasperating the popular feeling in England against the Irish, the country would in all probability endorse Mr. Gladstone's policy and give him an unmistakable mandate to carry it into law. There is reasonable expectation that both Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen will come round to Mr. Gladstone's view, and Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Charles Dilke, in spite of their present attitude, could not consistently oppose it."

The Press Association says :—

"We are enabled to state on unimpeachable authority that so long as four months ago Mr. Gladstone, foreseeing the result of the elections in Ireland, devoted serious attention to the probability of having to meet the demand for Home Rule, and came to the conclusion that a drastic change in the government of the sister isle was inevitable if, as has happened, the following of Mr. Parnell was appreciably augmented; and with this conviction he at once set about drafting a scheme which, in his opinion, would meet the necessities of the case. The basis of this scheme was a Parliament or central council in Dublin, vested with full power to deal with purely Irish affairs. The principle of the veto of the Sovereign was admitted, with the limitation that such veto should only be exercised on the recommendation of the Privy Council, which would have to be specially convened for the purpose. As there was no intention of giving the Dublin body power to deal with any but matters affecting Ireland only, the scheme provided for a continuance of Irish representation in the Imperial Parliament, in whose hands all taxation for Imperial purposes would be vested, as heretofore. The police were to be placed on the same footing as in Great Britain, controlled locally, and supported out of rates levied for the purpose. These were the main points. The scheme was submitted to a few of Mr. Gladstone's political friends, but as it was formulated without consultation it could not be taken as representing the views of any particular section of his followers. Since the elections there has been no formal consultation among the party in reference to the adoption of the scheme as a plank in the Liberal platform. Indeed, its very existence was not known to the rank and file until within the last day or two. Lord Hartington, Lord Spencer, and Mr. Goschen had not, up to Wednesday night, been sounded as to whether they would give their support, and even those to whom the scheme was originally submitted do not know whether it has been modified or extended during the period which has elapsed since it was drawn up. Considerable doubt is expressed as to the power of Mr. Gladstone, even if supported by the Parnellites, to carry through Parliament a measure based on the lines sketched above. It is pointed out that the opposition on the part of many Liberals would be more than passive, and that a coalition would be formed with the Conservatives to throw out the Bill.

The Press Association adds that it has reason to believe that although the specific announcements made as to the nature of the Irish programme of the Liberal leaders is premature and unauthorised, they nevertheless embody the main features of the plan suggested, but not yet fully considered or adopted, for meeting the problem now pressed forward by most of the constituencies of Ireland. In communications received on Thursday from Mr. Gladstone, the ex-Premier states that the announcements in the newspapers do not give an accurate statement of his views on the subject. There is, however, little doubt in the best-informed circles that the Liberal leaders [are prepared, if fitting opportunity should arise, to supersede what is known as the "Castle" system of administration in Ireland and also abolish the Lord-Lieutenancy. Nor is it a secret that Earl Spencer, the late Lord-Lieutenant, had himself, for a considerable time, recognised the desirableness sooner or later of carrying out these drastic reforms. With regard to the new system which may be substituted, several of Mr. Parnell's Parliamentary followers have stated that they have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the proposals which have been published, and that there is a strong hope—amounting almost to a belief—in Ireland that the question of Home Rule will be settled by the Liberal party. They add that certain points of detail, such as proportional representation, nominee members, and the special representation of property, would not be accepted by them and would probably not be insisted upon. They think there is no necessity for a special protection of the Protestant minority in Ireland, as the fact of the leader and several members of the Nationalist party in Parliament being Protestants should be regarded as a sufficient guarantee. If Lord Salisbury is not prepared at the commencement of the session to make a statement of his intentions satisfactory to the Nationalists, there is reason to believe that Mr. Parnell will lose no time in pressing the question forward in the House of Commons, and eliciting some announcement of the extent to which the Liberal leader will make concessions."

With reference to the announcement in Thursday's *Standard*, Mr. Gladstone telegraphed to the Central News Agency during the morning as follows :—"The statement (in the *Standard*) is not an accurate representation of my views, but is, I presume, a speculation upon them. It is not published with my knowledge or authority, nor is any other beyond my own public declarations.—W. E. GLADSTONE." Lord Spencer, on being referred to by the Central News, telegraphed to that agency :—"No scheme of Home Rule for Ireland has received my approval.—SPENCER." Among the members of the Irish Parliamentary party the news caused the most lively excitement. Mr. Healy, in response to an inquiry telegraphed, "Until our party meet I could not pass any opinion." Mr. T. P. O'Connor, however, said that he thought the scheme a good step in the right direction, but he believed a more distinct form of self-government than that indicated must be granted before Ireland would be satisfied. The Irish must have the same freedom as the colonists. They must be relieved of all share in the English National Debt, and contribute nothing towards the English Exchequer. Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., telegraphed to the Central News as follows :—"I cannot undertake to give the views of the Irish party on the alleged scheme of Home Rule. I will reserve my own opinion until the party have met and deliberated on the subject. I will only say that I do not understand how what the landlords call their interests can be saved by any man or any assembly in the world. They are perishing as if by an inexorable law of nature. Minorities in creed and politics would be as safe in Ireland as they are in England, and the larger the Home Rule scheme is the more certain will it be to work satisfactorily for both countries." Sir Charles Dilke, on being appealed to, thought it would not be right to discuss the subject in its present embryo state, while Mr. Childers declared, in response to a telegraphic inquiry, that he had no information or knowledge whatsoever of Mr. Gladstone having propounded a scheme of Home Rule on the basis alleged, or on any other lines. Mr. Chamberlain, in response to an inquiry as to how far he approved of the Home Rule scheme as published, telegraphed that in his opinion, so far as he could form it on the information given, if Mr. Parnell's proposals fulfilled the conditions which had been laid down by Mr. Gladstone, they would be fairly examined by the Liberal party, but Mr. Parnell would have to approach them in a reasonable and considerate spirit. Earl Granville, in replying to a similar inquiry from the Central News, telegraphed :—"The message from Mr. Gladstone, published by you, makes it unnecessary, even were I so inclined, to give my views upon the different schemes attributed to him."

THE HERAT VALLEY AND THE PERSIAN FRONTIER.

Colonel Stewart, C.E., in the course of an interesting paper on the above subject read on Monday at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held in the theatre of the London University, said that he made use of the opportunity afforded him by an official visit paid to the locality in 1881, to make a rough survey of the country to the southward of Khaf, as far as the northern border of Sistan, which in most maps is usually marked as salt desert, and had not previously been traversed in its full extent by any European. Although not fertile, he found that it was very far from being salt desert, but was hilly, and the plains were of clay or sand. About eighteen miles south of Khaf were the ruins of a large town, Zuzan, amongst which men were digging for saltpetre, which is found amidst the ruins of most eastern towns. The town of Zuzan was probably Susia, where Alexander the Great was met by Sartebarzanes, the governor of Aria. Passing through the Ahinguran hills by a difficult pass, Colonel Stewart came to the district of Kaian, the Ameer of which is appointed by the Shah of Persia. There are great extremes of climate in this district, and Colonel Stewart suffered greatly from the intense heat. To the south of Kaian, the principal town of which is Birjand, is a desert separating it from Beloochistan, while Afghanistan bounds it upon the east. Kaian is noted for its saffron and carpet manufactories. In crossing the desert towards Karman Colonel Stewart endured great privation from want of water, but eventually arrived at Mariband, a sort of oasis, in the absence of which it would be impossible to journey from Birjand to Karman during the heats of summer; the direct road *vid* Khabis, having no water for 150 miles of its length, being consequently impassable. Colonel Stewart expressed the opinion that the road travelled by Marco Polo from Karman to Kaian was by way of Naiband. From 1882 to 1884 Colonel Stewart resided at Mohsinabad, about eighty miles from Herat, and in the neighbourhood of the Heri Rud. On several occasions he accompanied parties of Persian cavalry in pursuit of the Turkoman raiders. In May of the present year he was with Sir Peter Lumsden at Tirpul, and visited Herat, where he found abundance of shops and bazaars, though the goods displayed appeared to be inferior to what are seen in Mashad or any important Persian town. The population of Herat is largely of the Persian race and of the Shiah Mohammedan form of faith. The number of people of true Afghan race is not considerable. Herat in former times was said to have contained 100,000 inhabitants, but at the time of his visit Colonel Stewart did not think that beside the strong Afghan garrison there could be more than 12,000. The Herat Valley for a distance of 120 miles was cultivated like a garden, grain and fruits being produced in wonderful profusion. Being the only place in that part of Central Asia where a large body of men could be fed, anyone holding possession of Herat would have a most commanding influence in the affairs of Afghanistan and Persia. In conclusion Colonel Stewart said :—"The Russians are making their railway from the Caspian Sea *vid* Askabad and Merv to Samarkand; the line, which it is hoped will be finished in three years, will cross the Oxus River at a point to the northward of Bokhara, and will not pass through that place, to which it is proposed to make a branch line. I believe nothing would insure peace and quietness in Central Asia so much as our continuing the Quetta line of railway to Herat, and this line could eventually be joined on to the Russian line. If a string is stretched over a globe from England to India it would nearly follow the line through Russia to Vladikafkas, at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains, where the Russian European system of railroads at present ends, but which is about to be continued to Petrofsk, on the Caspian Sea, and then would pretty nearly follow the Russian Transcaspian line, and thence onward through Herat and Quetta. I know there are difficulties to be contended with in the making of a line of railway to Herat, but the difficulties are not of a physical character, but chiefly consist in the prejudices of the Afghan and English peoples. I wish at all events to try and ventilate the possibility of making such a line so as to remove the prejudices of the English. I believe the difficulties which the English would have to contend with as regards the prejudices of the people through whose country it would be made would be far less than those the Russians will have to contend with in making a railway through Bokharan territory to Samarkand. The possibility of running railroads in Central Asia has been greatly faciliated by the finding of almost unlimited supplies of fuel, in the shape of petroleum. The whole country from the north-eastern corner of the Black Sea through the Caucasus to Baku on the Caspian Sea is full of petroleum, which is found at certain points, such as Baku, in almost unlimited quantities, and also in the Transcaspian provinces it is found in large quantities. All the steamers employed on the Caspian, which are very numerous, burn petroleum as fuel, as do also the locomotives used on the Transcaspian railroad. The advantage in burning petroleum over coal is that a much less quantity is required to perform the same work. For instance, a steamer would only require to use ninety tons of petroleum, where she would require to use 240 tons of coal. Thus a steamer or an engine burning petroleum could carry a supply of petroleum sufficient to keep their engines going for nearly three times the period that the same quantity of coal would last. Petroleum is sold at Baku at a halfpenny a pood of 36lb., and the supply is practically unlimited. Besides the enormous quantities of petroleum found in Russia and in America, large quantities could, I believe, be procured by boring in Burmah, and petroleum has also been found in the country near Quetta; this last, if it should prove to be in considerable quantities, would be most useful in case the Indian railway lines were extended to Herat."

THE RESTORATION OF GWALIOR FORT TO SCINDIAH.

An account of the circumstances which led up to the restoration of Gwalior Fort to the Maharajah Scindiah, as reported in our last issue, will not be without interest at the present time. When the English Government restored order in Gwalior in 1843 and placed the present Maharajah in power, it made a treaty to the effect that territory should be ceded for the maintenance of a contingent, and that the Maharajah's army should not exceed 9,000 men. The Maharajah then being a minor, the Fort of Gwalior was retained in our possession, but on the Maharajah coming of age in 1853 it was restored to him. When Scindiah's army revolted in 1858 the Maharajah lost the fort, and it is unnecessary to recall how gallantly the late Lord Strathnairn recovered it. The true interest of the subject (the *Times* says) begins after this event, with Lord Canning's promise to the Maharajah in 1860 at Allahabad to restore the fort as soon as "it could be done with safety." At the same time the Viceroy sanctioned the increase of the Maharajah's army by more than 2,000 men and four guns. The question of the retention of Gwalior Fort was a little complicated by the doubt as to the advisability of retaining the Morar cantonment, which had gained an unenviable notoriety as one of the unhealthiest stations in India. So far as official records go, the Maharajah raised no objection to the retention of the fort when the matter was mentioned to him by Lord Canning in 1860 and Lord Elgin three years later. In 1864 he expressed his complete approval in the following passage of a *khureeta* addressed to Lord Lawrence :—"I hereby convey my formal and written consent to the occupation of the Fort of Gwalior by British troops as long as the Government of India may deem such to be advisable." This offer was definitely accepted by Lord Lawrence, and in return Scindiah was allowed to increase his artillery by twelve guns which were presented to him from the Agra arsenal. Up to this period Scindiah had shown every inclination to agree with the views of the Indian Government in retaining a British garrison to the fort, but after the year 1864 his views seem to have undergone a complete change.

The causes of irritation which operated in his mind will seem trivial only to those who ignore the value attached by Orientals to form and the proper observance of expected marks of respect. The first matter to irritate the Maharajah was the unavoidable destruction of some old buildings within the fort; and the erection of new barracks seems to have occasioned some disquietude. But what galled him more than anything else was the refusal of the guard through a too strict devotion to duty to admit him into the fort while Sir John Lawrence was staying there. It was after this incident that Scindiah began, through a sense of being overshadowed by British power in his own principality, to lay stress on the old promise that we would restore the fort as soon as it could be done with safety. The dissatisfaction first found open official expression in 1869, at the time of Scindiah's visit to Lord Mayo at Calcutta, and his complaint took three forms: the enforced distribution of his own army, the retention of Gwalior Fort, and the presence of a British force at Morar. The consideration of the important political question of our relations with the most powerful of the Mahratta chiefs occupied a great portion of the year 1870; and Lord Mayo was strongly disposed to accede to most, if not all, of Scindiah's requests, although the opinion of his military advisers was against them. He went so far as to record his deliberate judgment that, if suitable arrangements could be made, the occupation both of the cantonment of Morar and the Fort of Gwalior ought to cease. Lord Mayo even foreshadowed what those arrangements ought to be, and it will be seen how accurately he anticipated the present situation. The construction of a railway close to Gwalior, the selection of a preferable site to Morar for a cantonment, and the stipulation that the fort should not be strengthened, would in his opinion have justified the restoration of Gwalior Fort, which we were bound in honour to give back to Scindiah. The Midland Railway of India will perfect our communications, and the desired spot for the cantonment has been discovered at Jhansi, where it will be easy to establish a far healthier and far more valuable military station for our troops than the unhealthy and cholera-stricken encampment of Morar. Lord Mayo recommended this course being taken in August, 1871; but it is only now that the necessary conditions have been fulfilled, and have thus rendered the project practically feasible.

Although twenty years have elapsed since Scindiah first asked for the restoration of Gwalior Fort, time has not blunted the keenness of his desire to recover it. In fact it may be said that it has only intensified his longing, and that the whole policy of Scindiah became subservient to this end. As in 1871 so in 1885, the best political opinion at the disposal of the Indian Government was in favour of complying with Scindiah's wishes, and the military position had so far changed as to render conclusive the arguments of those who advocated a removal from Morar. Lord Dufferin has therefore been able to bestow the favour which Lord Lawrence withheld, and which the premature close of Lord Mayo's career frustrated. The only doubtful point in the matter is whether the favour will be appreciated at its real importance by the Maharajah himself. Had it been conferred fifteen years ago Scindiah might have recognised in it the justice and generosity of the English Raj, but the effect can hardly be expected to be the same now that it has been at length obtained in the evening of his career. We must also deduct much from the impression of our act by the after-feeling of disappointment that must come when it is seen that the importance of Gwalior Fort has been exaggerated. Still Scindiah's personal gratification should be very great, for he has attained the object of his life, and he can rule from his palaces at Gwalior and Luxar without being affronted by the presence of English soldiery. Apart from the intrinsic merits of the Gwalior question there can be no doubt that the Government of India have come to a momentous decision which must affect the relations between the supreme Power and all its feudatories. What Scindiah has obtained every other chief will hope to attain, and, without enumerating minor instances, the restoration of Gwalior Fort at once brings the restoration of Berar to the Nizam within the range of practical politics in India. The Nizam not less than the Maharajah Scindiah is our faithful friend and feudatory, and as his finances are in sufficiently good order to justify the statement that he can meet all his obligations, it seems as if there were no valid reason to retain the districts which we have administered in trust for thirty years. In fact, there is reason to believe that the matter is now under consideration, and that, if the Nizam's Government will consent to reduce his own army and to comply with other stipulations, Lord Dufferin will be able to make another restoration to a native chief. These decisions are momentous, not merely in themselves, but in their consequences.

Mr. Oldham Barlow, R.A., has completed a mezzotint engraving of Sir John Millais's portrait of Mr. Irving, which will shortly be published by Mr. Arthur Lucas, Bond-street. Each impression of the limited number of artist's proofs will bear the autograph of Mr. Irving, in addition to those of the painter and engraver.

ARCTIC RELICS.

A series of Arctic relics of strange interest has been brought home by Captain Fairweather, of the whaler *Terra Nova*, of Dundee, and transmitted to the Admiralty through Mr. Leigh Smith. These relics consist of various documents in a cylindrical tin case, which had been deposited by several of the Franklin Search Expeditions thirty years ago, and a statement left by Sir Allen Young when at Beechey Island in 1875. Captain Fairweather states that he picked up the document in Prince Regent's Inlet under the following circumstances. While lying at the floe edge in that inlet, about the end of June last, he was surprised to see several sledges with natives coming off to the ship. He had never seen natives in that quarter before, and therefore thought they had come from Admiralty Inlet for the express purpose of robbing the depôts left by former Arctic expeditions on Beechey Island and thereabouts. The captain was also, with good reason, surprised at the manner in which the natives were dressed. Their trousers were cut from "Dreadnought" cloth, serge and woollen shirts and big pilot overcoats supplied the place of the usual Esquimaux trappings; their outfits being completed with English caps of various descriptions. It did not require much acuteness on the part of the captain to surmise where the store was located from which the lucky natives had been so liberally supplying themselves. Their sledges, also from the depôt, were loaded with tobacco and various other little luxuries, down even to onion powder, the purpose of which, however, rather puzzled them. On overhauling the sledges the captain was fortunate enough to find the tin cylinder referred to; and just in time, as the natives were about to use up the contents as wads for their guns. The Esquimaux admitted they found the treasure-trove on Beechey Island—no doubt in the "Northumberland House" depôt, familiar to all readers of Arctic travel. They had also broached the rum casks and the preserved meat tins, many of the latter, however, being bad. Tobacco was the article they seemed best supplied with, and the crews of the ships lying in the inlet bartered not less than 80lb. from them. Captain Fairweather is of opinion that the natives have cleared out Beechey Island depôt of everything that would be of service to man in those regions. And who can blame them, poor creatures? Even if they knew the purpose of the depôt, it could not be in Esquimaux nature, with its bitter struggle for existence, to resist the opportunity of revelling in unheard-of luxuries to be had for the picking up.

The papers contained in the case contain records of the visits of every ship to Beechey Island, with the exception of the *Arctic*, of Dundee, in 1881, and the crew of the Peterhead sailing ship *Queen*, in 1866, which left no record of their visits. The documents it is unnecessary to analyse; they are doubtless familiar to readers of Arctic story, as we believe most of them have been printed. The earliest document is that relating to the search expedition of 1852-4, under the command of Sir E. Belcher. It is dated "Northumberland Depôt, 22d August, 1854," with a postscript dated August 26. It records the many vain attempts to find the *Erebus* and *Terror* and their brave but unfortunate crews, and the disasters that had happened to the search expedition itself. The postscript states that Sir Edward was compelled to withdraw the crew from his own ship the *Assistance* to the *North Star*, and was then proceeding to England. With this is a list of the provisions, clothing, and stores in depôt at Beechey Island and Cape Pelly for the relief of distressed parties in the Arctic regions; also a printed document, dated "Admiralty, 28th April, 1854," and addressed to Sir Edward Belcher, giving him instructions to withdraw as best he could "the whole of the force now employed in the search for Sir J. Franklin." The Admiralty concluded they have done enough to rescue one of the noblest and bravest of Arctic explorers; and, as they had a Russian war on their hands, Sir John and his men, if alive, must be left to their fate. In the corner of this document is written, "Copy for Captain Collinson, C.B." But Lady Franklin could not thus abandon her husband, and the next document in order of date is the record left by Captain (now Admiral) Sir Leopold M'Clintock, happily still active and vigorous, who commanded Lady Franklin's Search Expedition in the *Fox*. It is dated "Erebus Bay, August 14th, 1858" (with "August 15" underneath, as if doubtful of the date). Sir Edward also tells the story of his search, and expresses his intention of continuing it, with what results are known to all readers of his fascinating narrative. He found the depôt in good order, and enclosed a list of the provisions and other things required to continue his search to December, 1860, if necessary. There are other lists and documents referring to the stores in the depôt, and directions for vessels which might visit the island, all significant of the busy and anxious time in these northern waters thirty years ago. The last of these interesting documents is dated August 26, 1875, and is that left by Sir Allen Young when he visited the island in his yacht the *Pandora*, which, as the *Jeannette*, came to grief north of Behring Strait, under Captain de Long. Sir Allen found the depôt in a state of wreckage; the bears had played havoc with the stores, and the house was nearly full of ice and snow. Sir Allen repaired the house, and took on board the provisions named in a list which he deposited.

Captain Fairweather deserves the thanks of England for snatching these valuable records from destruction—valuable, as so intimately associated with one of the most exciting and fruitful and chivalrous periods of English Arctic exploration. They certainly deserve to be permanently deposited in the archives of our Admiralty.

THE BURMESE "ARCHBISHOP" EXPLAINED.

From the frequent reference to the "priests" in connection with the war in Upper Burmah, and the statement that the "Archbishop" has issued a manifesto calling upon the people to submit to British authority, it might be supposed that there was some sort of Church-and-State connection in Burmah, and some danger of a religious war. It may, therefore, be well to say that there are no priests at all in Burmah, or in any Buddhist country, and nobody corresponding to the British conception of an Archbishop. A priest is a man who exercises religious functions, and by discourse and indoctrination leads his flock into the path which, according to his lights, is the right one. The Burman religious does nothing of the kind. He exercises no functions, conducts no services of any kind. If once or twice in his lifetime he preaches a sermon at one of the great festivals, there is not a word of exhortation or persuasion in his discourse. It is simply a statement in language stately and magniloquent of the event in the life of Gautama, the Buddha, in commemoration of which the festival is ordained; or it is a recital in Pali of the sermon which Sakya-Muni himself delivered on the occasion. The Buddhist religious teaches the people in no way except by example. He works out his own salvation by steadfast meditation and a stainless life. This is a natural consequence of the character of the Buddhist faith. It is impossible to intercede with a Creator who does not exist, on behalf of a creature who can only attain to a higher state by the purity of his life and his own zealous self-denial. The brethren of the yellow robe are monks, if a parallel to them must be found in European ecclesiasticism. They have taken vows and submit themselves to a discipline from which the layman is free. They are members of a higher grade in a State where all are supposed to be striving after a pure life in hope of being rewarded by a favourable transmigration in the next existence.

Theoretically, too, there is no distinction of rank among the members of the sacred order. All have equally retired from the temptations of the world, and all are equally striving on the same high principles. But where men live in communities it is necessary to have a head; and therefore each monastery has a superior, to settle matters of internal discipline. And there is often a provincial, who exercises a kind of jurisdiction over all the monasteries of a certain circle, tenders advice when required on matters in dispute, enforces rules against malcontents, and corrects abuses. These are selected for the length of time they have been in the order, and sometimes for their superior learning. But their rank is merely relative. If from some remote quarter there comes, as a visitor, a monk who has worn the yellow robe for a greater number of Lenten seasons than the head of the monastery, or even than the head of the district, then he has the greater honour. The doors of the monastery are constantly open as well to those who wish to enter as to those who wish to depart. In Mandalay, as the chief town of the country and of the faith (it is calculated that there are between twenty and thirty thousand monks in that city), there is always what is called a Sadaw, a Royal teacher, a sort of vicar-general of the order, to whom all matters in dispute, both in Lower and Upper Burmah, are referred for decision. The teacher of the reigning King is always created a Sadaw, if he does not happen to have been of that rank before. Great learning, or residence for many years with unblemished piety in the order, are the qualifications; and the Sadaw always lives near the capital after his appointment. Sometimes there are several, sometimes only one. A few years ago there were as many as eight, all owning the title Tha-thana-peing—"supreme in matters of religion." But the name gives them no office. They go out every morning with the begging-bowl, unless their infirmities forbid it. They issue no orders, no pastorals. They do not consecrate any one; they only deliver judgment on matters of doctrine when these are referred to them, and then only as the most aged members of the order. There is nothing like the system that exists in Tibet, with its pontifical court, its elective sacerdotal chief, and its college of superior Lamas. In this respect Burmah is nearest of all Buddhist countries to the polity laid down by Sakya-Muni, just as it is the most exact in its observance of the rules of the sacred books.

It will thus be seen that Buddhism—at any rate Burmese Buddhism—is a purely republican religion. The dress of every member of the order, from the Sadaw to the last-admitted neophyte, is the same. The brother who has been longest in the Church has honour not because he thereby gains rank, but because he is nearer to Nirvana. He must go out every morning to beg for his food, even though he be a King's son. The only difference between man and man is that established by superiority in virtue. If a prince does ill now, he will suffer for it hereafter: the poor man whom he ill-treats in this world may rise to the seventh heaven in the next.

After this, it will hardly be necessary to say that the monks take no part and no interest in politics. It is not unknown for a man to step from the cloister into office. The present chief of the Ministry did so, and so did his predecessor; but within the religious precincts they took no interest in the affairs of the world. King Theebaw's flourish in his declaration of war about fighting for the Buddhist religion was a bit of rhodomontade for which it is about a thousand to one M. Haas was responsible. Of course our position in the country would be altered at once if we molested the monks. Then they would not need to say a word. The whole population in Lower as well as in Upper Burmah would forthwith rise against us. But the English will not trouble the holy men. In Lower Burmah the maxim that monastic ground is sacred for ever has been scrupulously observed. The "Archbishop's" proclamation that all men are to obey the commands of the English General will no doubt serve to reassure the minds of timid country people; but it was hardly necessary. It would be much more to the purpose if the General would assure the people that the English are their protectors, and that never again will a descendant of Alompra ascend the Golden Throne.—*St. James's Gazette.*

THE DOGS OF LONDON.

Since the last stringent order relating to dogs was issued from the office of the Chief Commissioner of Police public attention has been directed in a very marked manner to the condition of the metropolis at large in reference to these animals, and the "Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs," at Battersea, has been full to overflowing. Here Mr. J. C. Colam, whose name is synonymous with kindness to animals, may be found at any hour of the day, directing, with the assistance of twelve men, the affairs of a very lively establishment, containing on Monday no fewer than twelve hundred dogs. This is the only place in the metropolis to which dogs can be sent at the present time; and it has for nearly a quarter of a century been doing an important work, in a blameless style, caring for poor lost dogs for a few days, restoring them to their disconsolate owners in some cases; saving the pure-bred and putting out of existence those not claimed, by a process utterly devoid of pain. In 1884, there were 14,772 dogs received at the Home, of which 4,274 were restored or sold. Notwithstanding the enormous number thus got rid of, the figures this year up to the present time are far in excess of last year. Thus, from the 1st of January to December 14, 21,614 dogs have been received, and the year had seventeen days more to run. The collection of dogs has not been suddenly commenced, because the Police Orders have only been gradually extended over the whole metropolitan area, one district having been proclaimed at a time. But now the orders extend from the City to Barnet, Chislehurst, Croydon, Erith, and Staines. The final order, issued on the 10th inst., tended to very greatly increase the number captured, and the following figures show the daily return for one week:—December 7th, 304; 8th, 253; 9th, 242; 10th, 266; 11th, 353; 12th, 412; and 14th, 468.

With regard to the detection of madness in the animals, says a correspondent of the *Standard*, it is scarcely possible for one, however slightly affected, to escape notice. There are seven keepers, all experienced men in discovering diseases, and a daily visit is made by Mr. A. J. Sewell, veterinary surgeon. There are many kennels set apart for lame or diseased dogs, and several which are wired from top to bottom for the use of supposed "mad" animals. One suspicious animal, a liver and white spaniel, lay curled up in one of these wired kennels, but Dopson, the head keeper, thought he was "only spiteful." In regard to true rabies, there were thirteen cases detected in the Home in 1883, fifteen in 1884, and fifty-six cases were clearly developed in the kennels this year up to the present time. The danger has been checked for the moment, but that the disease has been wholly eradicated is very doubtful. By the end of the year, at the rate the dogs are now being taken to the Home, a very large diminution in the number of stray and ownerless animals will be noticeable. Mr. Colam is of opinion that the Police Order has had something to do with the sudden advent of the dogs in such numbers, as the owners, afraid of getting into trouble and knowing the tax will soon become payable, turn their dogs adrift.

The animals are taken to the Home in covered carts from all parts of the metropolis, and the strange journey appears to fill them all with fright, no matter of what breed they are. Every dog on arrival is fitted with a collar bearing a number, and led by a chain to its proper kennel, where it is turned into a company of creatures as bewildered as itself. Most dogs on the first day exhibit the same fear, and whine, move uneasily about the kennel, and dash at the front bars on a human face appearing. Some—particularly the long-haired terriers—show timidity throughout the three days' grace of life which is given them for identification by their owners. On the day of the correspondent's visit, in several kennels little silky-haired pets of this description sat in the corners and turned their faces with pitying looks to the strangers who passed by. The great majority of the captives appear to be of the mongrel breed, and frequently there were as many as a hundred in a single kennel. Restlessly moving about, whining, snapping, barking, sometimes one that had been a lady's pet uttering a plaintive cry, as though the feeding-time had come and a hand was missed, the poor things spend an agitated time until the wire cage is moved up to their kennel, and they pass in, to be run, a hundred at a time, into the lethal chamber, where death comes to them in the form of sleep. The process is one elaborated by Dr. W. B. Richardson, and the action is death by anæsthesia. There is no agony, no pang. On being wheeled into the chamber the poor dogs prick up their ears, then lie down, curl themselves round, fall asleep, and their restless little lives are closed. The number of dogs taken to the Home is so great that the lethal chamber is charged now twice in twenty-four hours; and even good dogs—dogs of the best breeds not claimed or sold—though they frequently have an extension of the three days—go to their doom with mangy mongrels and snappish, ill-bred curs. Thus in a day or two more the grand, smooth-haired brown St. Bernard, which sat on its haims, looking up, unconcerned at the yelping animals about it, perchance thinking, dog-fashion, of a home amongst the Alps, will probably curl itself up and die in the lethal chamber. So also, probably, the time will come for the crowd of retrievers, smooth and curly-coated, which tried to coax the stranger into ownership; together with the fretful little terrier Tray, or Blanche, or Sweetheart, and all its noisy associates accustomed to pick up their livings about the streets and markets; the Pomeranians, which look very dirty and demure for lack of their usual bath; and the collies, greyhounds, pugs, bulldogs, and mastiffs—unless their owners turn up quickly and redeem the strayed pets in time. Of one thing all may be assured who lose their dogs and never recover them, that at the Dogs' Home they are well and tenderly cared for, and die a painless death. There is no pressure whatever upon the accommodation in the grounds, and in doing a great work in the metropolis any tender of help will be gratefully received.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Royal Family and the members of Her Majesty's Household attended Divine service on Sunday in the Private Chapel of Windsor Castle. The Very Rev. Randall Davidson, Dean of Windsor, officiated. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Albany. The Right Hon. Sir Richard Cross, G.C.B., arrived at the Castle, and, with General the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B., dined with the Queen and Royal Family.

Monday being the twenty-fourth anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort, and the seventh of that of the Princess Alice, the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princes Albert and George and Princess Louise of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, and the Duchess of Albany went to the Royal mausoleum at Frogmore in the morning, shortly after eleven o'clock, when the usual annual special service was performed by the Dean of Windsor. The choir of St. George's Chapel sang an anthem and hymns, the service lasting about twenty minutes. The mausoleum was open in the afternoon for members of the Royal household and others having permission to visit it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prince Henry of Battenberg was on Wednesday presented with the freedom of Windsor at the Townhall, in presence of Princess Beatrice, the corporation of the town, and other residents. The Windsor Rifle Volunteers and local fire brigade were stationed as a guard of honour at the Guildhall, which was draped with flags. The Town Clerk having read the address, the Mayor presented an illuminated document conferring the freedom, and a handsomely-carved oak casket, to Prince Henry, who made the customary declaration, and thanked the corporation for the gift. The Royal party then withdrew.

In a supplement to the *London Gazette* of Tuesday, there are orders for the Court's going into mourning from Wednesday for his late Majesty King Ferdinand, father of his Majesty the King of Portugal and Algarves, and first cousin of her Majesty the Queen, viz.:—The ladies to wear black dresses, white gloves, black or white shoes, feathers, and fans; pearls, diamonds, or plain gold or silver ornaments. The gentlemen to wear black Court dress, with black swords and buckles. The Court to change the mourning on Wednesday, the 30th inst.—viz., the ladies to wear black dresses, with coloured ribands, flowers, feathers, and ornaments, or grey or white dresses, with black ribands, flowers, feathers, and ornaments. The gentlemen to continue the same mourning; and on Wednesday, January 13 next, the Court to go out of mourning.

An agreement has been signed at the Colonial Office by the Secretary of State, on behalf of the Queen, and by the Maharajah of Johore, in which, after other provisions concerning the relations of Johore with the colony of the Straits Settlements, Her Majesty agrees that the Maharajah shall in future be acknowledged as his Highness the Sultan of the State and Territory of Johore.

The Postmaster-General again calls attention to the fact that the least desirable manner in which appreciation can be shown of the labours of the postmen during the Christmas and New Year season is to offer them drink whilst in the discharge of their official duties. This is an act of mistaken kindness which is calculated to bring them into trouble and disgrace. The Postmaster-General earnestly hopes, therefore, that the public will refrain from putting such temptation in their way.

The editor of *Little Folks* magazine has just distributed among the children's hospitals in London and the provinces a large number of gifts received from his readers during 1885. These consist of dressed dolls, knitted articles, scrap albums, toys, and many hundreds of copies of coloured painting-books, &c., which have come to hand from every quarter of the globe.

We have to announce the death of the Hon. Wm. Leonard Holmes a'Court, which occurred at Clifton, where he had gone for the benefit of impaired health on Wednesday last. He was the eldest of the large family of Lord Heytesbury, by Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late Sir Leonard Worsley Holmes, Bart., of Westover, Isle of Wight. He was born 19th January, 1835, and was educated at Eton, and St. John's College, Cambridge. He married, 24th September, 1861, Isabella Sophia, eldest daughter of the Rev. Richard a'Court Beadon, vicar of Cheddar, Somerset, and by her he leaves a family of ten children.

The Earl of Shaftesbury on Thursday presided at the annual meeting of the friends and subscribers of the ragged school in King Edward-street, Whitechapel, and unveiled a monument and bust of his late father, executed by Mr. R. C. Belt, from a model made by him in 1884, and exhibited in the Royal Academy. His Lordship then distributed prizes to eighty-one scholars for good conduct in their situations.

A striking instance regarding the depreciation in the value of land is afforded by the sale of the Minting Park Estate, Lincolnshire, which comprises 540 acres, and which had a mortgage upon it of £15,000. The mortgagees worked it at a heavy loss for some time, and have finally sold the estate for £3,000.

The death is announced of the Rev. John Rae, M.A., of Aberdeen. Deceased was was born at Green of Udny, in 1836, and graduated at the Marischal College, Aberdeen. He afterwards studied at the Free Church College. After filling various appointments, in 1872 he accepted the post of superintendent of the Lebanon schools in Syria, labouring there in the midst of great difficulties for six years. After his return from Syria, Mr. Rae was called by the Aberdeen Free Presbytery to a new charge in that town.

Sir Hew Crawfurd-Pollok, of Pollok, Renfrewshire, died suddenly on Monday at Dover. The late Baronet was the only son of the late Sir Hew Crawfurd-Pollok, fourth Baronet, of Pollok and Kilbirnie, by his marriage with Elizabeth Oswald, daughter of Mr. Matthew Dunlop, and was born in 1843. He was formerly a captain in the Renfrewshire Militia, and served in the American war in the 5th United States Federal Cavalry. He succeeded to the baronetcy and family estates on the death of his father in 1867. Sir Hew Crawfurd-Pollok married, in 1871, Miss Annie Elizabeth Green, of Hull. The first baronet, Sir John Crawfurd, of Kilbirnie, upon whom the title was conferred in 1638, commanded a regiment of Foot in the Civil War. He died in retirement during the Commonwealth, after which the baronetcy remained dormant until 1765, when Mr. Hew Crawfurd, of Jordanhill, served heir male to the title, and subsequently assumed the additional name of Pollok. He was the great-grandfather of the baronet now deceased.

The Cumberland police have made an important discovery in connection with the robbery of jewellery at Netherby on the 28th of October last. When the prisoner Rudge and his two companions jumped out

of the goods train at Tebay Station, after the murder of Police-constable Byrnes at Plumpton, Rudge took refuge under the arch of a bridge which crosses the River Lune on the north side of Tebay Station. A few days afterwards a diamond eardrop, part of the stolen property, was found near the spot. Mr. Dunne, chief constable, instituted a search of the river in the hope that some of the missing property might be discovered. On Saturday morning Police-constable Scott found on the bank of the river, near the railway bridge, but on the opposite side of the river to that on which Rudge was taken, three diamond stars, one diamond ear-drop, and a finger-ring, which formed part of the stolen property; and it may now be said that the jewels which have been found constitute the whole of the missing property, except a small enamelled gold watch-key and a framed photograph.

Early on Sunday morning a terrible fire broke out at Looe-street, Plymouth. It caused the death of twelve persons by suffocation or burning, two others being also seriously injured. Amongst the dead are the wife and seven children of a dockyard man, named Edward Foss, who was himself severely hurt through leaping from the window of the burning building. The property destroyed was an old house in which twelve families, numbering in all thirty-one persons, were accommodated. The owner's wife, Mrs. Sprague, perished in the flames. Eight of the victims were so dreadfully burned as to be incapable of identification. The fire is believed to have broken out in a grocer's shop kept by a Miss Babbage at the right of the entrance. Sleeping with her was a Mrs. Kerby, who was probably the first to awake and find out that the house was in flames. She woke Miss Babbage, who escaped into the back yard; but Mrs. Kerby proceeded to alarm the other inmates, and, in her endeavours to save the lives of her neighbours, ultimately perished herself. The fire had not then reached the staircase, and Mrs. Kerby ran up it, knocking right and left at doors, behind each of which were persons sleeping in utter ignorance of the danger they were in, and all of whom, probably, owe their escape to her. But when she reached a room over a butcher's shop, where her brother, a man named Downing, was sleeping, she apparently found the room already full of smoke, and her retreat cut off by a rush of flame and smoke up the staircase. She sank upon her knees, clasped her hands, and in that posture she was found about two hours afterwards when the firemen were able to enter and explore the building. She appears to have been suffocated before she could arouse her brother, who was found dead in bed. At the inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned, the jury adding a rider recognising the self-sacrifice of Mrs. Kerby.

The old "Shilling case" has caused great perplexity to the Judges; and after having been tried by as many as fourteen together in June last, it is now declared to have resulted in a perplexing diversity of opinion. The simple facts were that one Ashwell asked a man called Keogh to lend him a shilling; and thereupon Keogh by mistake took a sovereign from his pocket and handed it to Ashwell without knowing his error. Ashwell, having subsequently kept the 19s., was charged with larceny, and the jury found that he did know the coin to be a sovereign at the moment he received it, but discovered it soon afterwards and fraudulently appropriated the money. Was this larceny? In the Queen's Bench seven Judges held that it was and seven that it was not. In this equality the conviction by the original Judge stands good. The principle relied on by some of the Judges was that, in order to constitute larceny, there must be an intention to steal (*animus furandi*) at the time the thing is taken. The real difference of opinion among the Judges related to the question whether this "taking" was the actual taking, or could be constructively extended to the moment when the accused knew what he had taken. The law is no doubt the perfection of reason, but common sense would speedily interpret the act as one of stealing.

The annual general meeting of the Hospital Sunday Fund was held on Tuesday in the Egyptian-hall at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The balance-sheet showed that last year the collections made at places of worship amounted to £31,692 8s. 11d., while the total receipts of the fund, including donations and a balance in hand from the previous year, were £36,826 18s. 11d. On the other hand, the sum of £29,781 18s. 9d. had been awarded to ninety-four hospitals and seven institutions, £2,171 10s. had been granted to fifty-three dispensaries, and £1,632 18s. had been spent in surgical appliances. Sir S. Waterlow moved the adoption of the report of the council, observing that the fund was administered at a small expense—only 3·474 per cent. of the gross receipts. He was glad to say that the number of congregations contributing to the fund was increasing. The Rev. Dr. Allon (Congregationalist) in seconding the motion, alluded to the report of the General Purposes Committee on the question of the nursing at University College Hospital, and expressed his thorough agreement with their conclusion—"that matters relating to the internal administration of hospitals were beyond the jurisdiction of the Hospital Sunday Fund." The Rev. Hincheliffe Higgins (Congregationalist) moved an amendment to the effect that, while agreeing with the opinion of the council, the meeting hoped that in future all trace of sectarianism would be banished from hospitals assisted by the fund. At University College Hospital a Nonconformist lady had been refused as a nurse because the Sisterhood supplying the nurses was exclusively Church of England. Some discussion ensued, in which Dr. Hare explained that the nursing had been twenty-five years in the hands of the sisterhood at University College Hospital, and was highly satisfactory. Before they took it up it was most inefficient. He thought it would be the height of sectarianism to drive away nurses who had served them well for twenty-five years because they were members of the Church of England. Mr. S. Hawley, of the Kingsland-green and Phœnix Open-air Mission, as a working-man, protested against the attempt made by the amendment to raise religious differences. After some further conversation the amendment was withdrawn and the report was adopted. June 27 was fixed for Hospital Sunday of 1886.

The Christmas Cattle Market was held at Islington on Monday. At one time it was feared that the frosts would interfere with arrivals from the Highlands, but no falling-off was experienced in that respect. On the contrary, the Scotch consignments were larger by 900 head. The total number of beasts was 7,470, an excess of 2,480 upon last year. Trade at the opening of the market was as dull as possible, it being some hours before it fairly settled down, and even then great variableness was shown, making it extremely difficult to obtain fair quotations. The following were top rates for the various distinctive breeds:—Scotch, 5s. 6d.; Hereford, 5s. 4d., verging on to 5s. 6d.; runts, 5s. 4d.; Devons (exceptional), 5s. 6d.; Norfolks, 5s. 4d.; Lincolns, 5s.; Irish, 4s. 10d.; fat cows, 4s. 6d.; Danish, 5s. per 8lb. The sheep and lambs numbered 13,650, and there was a fair demand. The choicest small downs, weighing from 9 to 10 stone, made 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lb; but for heavy sheep of good quality the top quotation was about 5s. 8d. per 8lb.

A man named Wilson was last week sentenced by the Stratford-on-Avon magistrates to three months' imprisonment with hard labour for practising singular frauds on clergymen. His plan was to describe himself as being employed on a neighbouring farm, and to state that one of his children had died and that he was too poor to bury it. Having begged donations, he arranged for a grave to be dug and for the bell to be tolled on a certain day, but when the time for the funeral arrived no one appeared, and the imposture was revealed. It was stated that the prisoner was wanted in various places in Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire, on charges of a similar character.

The Marquis of Salisbury lately received a letter complaining that the trade of the country was paralysed for two or three weeks during the elections in consequence of the length of time over which the polling days are extended, and asking whether it was not possible to limit the number of polling days to two or three, as such an announcement would be hailed with much gratification by the commercial community. In reply, his Lordship says he "considers that the matter is well worthy of consideration." The secretary of the Hull Chamber of Commerce has received the following letter from Lord Salisbury:—

"*Foreign Office, Dec.* 15, 1885.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. complaining of the action of the Russian authorities in treating bags carried by steamers loading grain in Russian ports as goods imported into Russia. In reply, I am to inform you that his Lordship has communicated your letter to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, who is endeavouring to get the regulations in the matter altered.

"I am, dear Sir, your most obedient, humble servant, "V. LISTER."

In order to give effect to the recommendations of Mr. Goschen's Select Committee for improving the financial control of the Admiralty, an entire rearrangement has been effected in the position and duties of the Accountant-General's Department. Foremost among the proposed changes is the altered position of the Accountant-General himself, on whom certain enlarged powers have been conferred. The new position of the Accountant-General is thus defined in the Order in Council:—

Whereas, by an Order in Council of the 13th day of October, 1832, the functions of the Accountant-General of the Navy were defined, and whereas by your Majesty's subsequent Orders in Council or of the 4th day of January, 1869, and the 19th day of March, 1872, certain alterations were approved by your Majesty in the constitution of the Board of Admiralty, affecting its financial arrangements, by the appointment of the Parliamentary and Financial Secretary, to be responsible to the First Lord for the finance of the department; and whereas it is in our opinion desirable to afford him assistance in the discharge of these important duties, we would humbly recommend to your Majesty the appointment of the Accountant-General of the Navy, to act as an assistant to the Financial Secretary. We are most humbly of opinion that, while the executive departments of the Admiralty should continue to be held primarily responsible for keeping a careful watch upon the expenditure they recommend or incur, the Accountant-General should be authorised to act under the Parliamentary and Financial Secretary as his deputy or assistant. With this object he should be charged under the Parliamentary and Financial Secretary with the preparation of the Naval Estimates; with financially reviewing the expenditure of those estimates; with advising or deciding as to any redistribution of votes or transfers which may from time to time be found necessary; with satisfying himself that such expenditure is properly allowed and brought to account; with advising on all questions affecting naval expenditure; and that he should not only be made acquainted with expenditure after it has been incurred, but be regarded as the officer to be consulted on all matters involving an expenditure of naval funds.

The department of the Accountant-General will in future be divided into three sections, presided over by a Deputy and two Assistant Accountant-Generals. The staff in each section is to be so distributed, and in some measure reduced, as to provide that each of the higher division clerks retained shall have distinct responsibility for a portion of the duties, and that the intention of previous reorganisations to get rid of divided responsibility shall be still further carried out.

At an agricultural dinner at Chichester on Wednesday the Duke of Richmond and Gordon denounced the attempts made in the recent political contests to set class against class, and more especially the labourer against the farmer. He ridiculed the idea of "three acres and a cow," which was a mischievous idea to put into the minds of the labourers. As to the continued agricultural depression, he believed that one great cause of it was the depression in trade and commerce, and if the latter revived there would be a similar revival in agriculture. He quoted figures to show that during the last three years the wheat cultivation had decreased 525,232 acres, and that in the same period permanent pasture had increased 520,803 acres. A satisfactory feature in regard to agriculture was that there was now a larger number of beasts and sheep in the country than for some years past, and that increase, he said, was mainly or in a great degree owing to immunity from disease, and to the prevention of the introduction of stock from disease-infected countries.

THE BLOOD PURIFIER.—Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla is highly recommended for Blood and Skin Diseases, Gout, Dropsy, Indigestion, Pimples, Blotches, Boils, &c. Of all Chemists, in bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 11s. Depôt, 131, Fleet-street, E.C.

The treasurer of the Church Penitentiary Association, 14, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C., writes that the association formed for the establishment and maintenance of refuges and homes for the reformation of fallen women is urgently in need of assistance, to aid the fifty-two houses in connection with the society.

The return of the Registrar-General shows that in London 2,504 births and 1,474 deaths were registered during last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 158, and the deaths 351, below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes, which had been 20·6 and 19·7 in the two preceding weeks, further declined last week to 18·8. During the first ten weeks of the current quarter the death-rate averaged 18·8, and was 2·3 below the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the nine years 1876-84. The 1,474 deaths included one from smallpox, 57 from measles, 14 from scarlet fever, 20 from diphtheria, 58 from whooping-cough, 7 from enteric fever, one from an undefined form of continued fever, sixteen from diarrhœa and dysentery, and not one from typhus or cholera. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 454, 480, and 410 in the three preceding weeks, were 413 last week, and seventy-two below the corrected average. Different forms of violence caused forty-five deaths; forty-one were the result of negligence or accident, among which were twenty-four from fractures and contusions, five from burns and scalds, two from drowning, four from poison, and six of infants under 1 year of age from suffocation. Two cases of suicide were registered.

The Lord Chancellor presided on Wednesday at the annual meeting of the St. James's Home Mission Society, Clerkenwell, held in Amwell-street School. According to the report, read by the Rev. J. H. Rose, the operations of the society were carried on in a district mainly inhabited by the poor and industrial classes, containing a population of 18,000 persons. Four clergymen, four paid laymen, and two mission women, besides many earnest workers who voluntarily devoted their spare time to the moral and spiritual work of the society, were engaged in the district in the various agencies for good which the association adopted. Owing to depression in trade the funds of the organisation had fallen off, and there was a considerable deficit at the end of the year. The Lord Chancellor, who said he had been born in the parish, pointed out that the conditions of life in the immediate neighbourhood of London had very much changed. Those organisations which were adequate when he had been engaged in home mission work in Clerkenwell were now obviously inadequate. If we were to grow up a nation of Christians something must be done to supply remedial measures for the appalling mass of ignorance, which was gradually increasing. His Lordship then dwelt at some length on the necessity of religion being considered as a part of education, and contrasted the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount with that of modern philosophy. He said he could not, either there or elsewhere, conceal from himself, and would not hesitate to express his belief, that if they educated children without the recognition of the great principles of Christianity they were not educating, they were not drawing forth the powers of the children, nor were they cultivating the qualities which would make them fit for this and for the Master's Kingdom, but they were investing them with powers which might be a curse instead of a blessing to the nation of which they were a part. Once stamp out the principle of religious education in this nation, once teach men that they were only to worship the intellect and not to worship God, and they would have done more to degrade and to reduce the condition of this nation to that of the savage than if they were to deprive them of every book and every newspaper and every modern principle of either amusement or instruction, because they would have taken from them the great principle of intellectual and spiritual life—namely, that which taught them their duty to God and to mankind. On the motion of Mr. Saul Isaac, the report was adopted, and the proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Lord Halsbury for presiding.

The weekly meeting of the London School Board was held on Thursday afternoon at the offices on the Victoria-embankment—the Rev. Joseph Diggle presiding. The clerk of the Board reported that the chairmen had been elected as follows:—The Rev. Joseph Diggle, School Management Committee; Mr. Lobb, Store Committee; Mr. Bousfield, Works Committee; Mr. Thomas Heller, Evening Classes Committee; Rev. C. Lawrence, Educational Endowments Committee; Sir Richard Temple, M.P., Finance Committee; Mr. Spicer, Industrial Schools Committee; Colonel Hughes, M.P., Statistical Committee; and the Rev. John Coxhead, Bye-Laws Committee. On the motion of Sir Richard Temple, the Board reappointed Mr. T. A. Spalding as private secretary to the chairman of the Board at a salary of £300 annum. In the absence of Mr. Gover, Mr. Olding proposed:—

That the solicitors receive for the work for which the salary of £1,500 a year is now paid, the sum of £500, plus payments for sites scheduled in the book of reference as follows:—£10 for each original site, and £5 for each site for enlarging schools or playgrounds, for providing school-keepers' houses, and for general improvements.

To this Mr. Lucas moved an amendment to the effect that the subject be referred to a special committee. The amendment was agreed to as a substantive resolution, and it was further agreed—

That a special committee be now appointed to examine into and report upon all the legal requirements of the Board, giving with such report a statement of all commissions, fees, and monetary liabilities connected therewith in so far as they can be tabulated; also the nature of the litigation, if any, that may arise for which no legal charges can be named beforehand; and, further, to report upon the advisability or otherwise of dispensing with the payment of commission in any and every form in connection with the business of the Board.

After a long debate a motion of Mr. Lobb's was agreed to in the following form:—

That at least ten days' public notice shall be given by advertisement inviting tenders for all future contracts for £100 and upwards, and the Board shall require sufficient security for the due performance of such contracts.

The Board adjourned over the Christmas holidays till the 14th of next month.

A source from whence every conceivable description of information can be obtained at a trifling cost should, assuredly, in the interest of the community at large, be made as widely known as possible. There are thousands of persons, we believe, in London alone, who are unacquainted with the fact that there is in the very heart of the city a "Universal Knowledge and Information Office," where all who need answers to questions upon any subject or in any language can apply, pay a small fee of one shilling, and at once obtain what they require. Surely such office is a boon to business men generally, as well as to those engaged in scientific inquiries or the compilation of works requiring technical, statistical, and literary knowledge or research. As such it has been already widely recognised, and justly so, from the simple fact that the office in question is conducted with the strictest integrity, the most earnest labour, and with undoubted ability. At this office answers may readily be obtained to questions not only upon all subjects, but in whatsoever language they may be couched, thus serving the purpose of a central office of information for the whole world. Not only is it employed through its staff of specialists (including leading names in every department of knowledge) in replying to inquiries, but also, by means of searches and correspondents everywhere, in collecting information from the most reliable and trustworthy sources. The utility and universality of this office are proved by the nature and value of the questions received no less than by the testimonials in acknowledgment of the value and sufficiency of the replies. The outcome of an institution which is of such practical utility cannot fail to interest all who are in search themselves of essential and important information, or who desire increased intellectual intercommunication. In the event of a question being either unanswerable, foreign to the character of the undertaking, or unsatisfactorily replied to by the specialist to whom it may have been referred, the fee is returned. It will thus be seen that the business is conducted on strictly honourable lines, and in such a manner as to ensure for the undertaking the success it so fully deserves. The office is at 19, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury-square, where from the secretary, Mr. Havelock Fisher, can be obtained a prospectus which will supply all the information desired.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending Dec. 12 was—medical 835, surgical 397; total 1,232, of which 388 were new cases.

"laden with the scent of flowers,
And breath of odorous spring."

SPINNER'S TEA.—A company of merchants are now selling through Spinner & Co. the choicest teas that come from India and China in packets only. Prices 1s. 8d., 2s., 2s. 4d., and 2s. 8d. a pound. These are the perfection of teas, and will please the most fastidious.—Agents wanted in every town and village. For terms, apply to Spinner & Co., 60, Strand, London.—SPINNER & CO., London and Liverpool.

MESSRS. FRY AND SONS are daily receiving numerous testimonials from the medical profession speaking in high terms of their Pure Concentrated Soluble Cocoa. Sir Charles Cameron, M.D., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, says:—"I have formed a high opinion of its value. It is especially adapted to those whose digestive organs are weak, and I strongly recommend it as a substitute for tea." Ask your grocer for a sample of this delicious Cocoa.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read, 'Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d

BIRTHS.

Dec. 6, Mrs. KEITH-CHALMERS, of Burwardsley, Cheshire, of a daughter.

Dec. 9, at Leyton Vicarage, Essex, the wife of the Rev. JAMES LUNT, of a son.

Dec. 9, at West Kirby, Cheshire, the wife of the Rev. ARTHUR FREDERICK OSTREHAN, of a son.

Dec. 10, at 16, Landrock-road, Hornsey, the wife of the Rev. J. IVO BALL, M.A., of a daughter.

Dec. 10, at Denton Rectory, Harleston, the wife of the Rev. C. T. CRUTTWELL, Rector of Denton, of a daughter.

Dec. 12, at 8, Great Denmark street, Dublin, the wife of the Rev. ANTHONY L. ELLIOTT, M.A., Rector of St. Catherine's, of a son.

Dec. 15, at Stoke-upon-Trent, the wife of the Rev. FRANCIS G. OLIPHANT, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 8, at St. Stephen's, Westbourne-park, HARRINGTON GORDON FORBES, eldest son of the late Francis Charles Forbes, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, to ANNIE JULIA, youngest daughter of the late Rev. T. EVERARD BUCKWORTH, Rector of Evenlode, Worcestershire.

Dec. 10, at All Souls', Langham-place, the Rev. SYDNEY JAMES LOWDELL, eldest son of the late Thorold Lowdell, to LUCY HENRIETTA, youngest daughter of ALFRED PACKARD, Esq., of Shroton, Dorset.

Dec. 12, at Christ Church, Ealing, WALTER GEORGE, third son of C. T. MARZETTI, Esq., of Widmore-road, Bromley, Kent, to ELEANORE, only daughter of Colonel H. P. K. F. CRAWFURD, 12th Madras N.I.

Dec. 15, at the Abbey Church, Great Malvern, FRANCIS TRAHERNE LYNCH BLOSSE, of Cardiff, youngest son of the late Dean of Llandaff, to EMILY VIVIAN CORY, eldest daughter of Richard Cory, Esq., Cardiff.

Dec. 16, at Herringfleet, Major WILLIAM WHITMORE SMITH, Royal Artillery, only son of General M. W. Smith, C.B., 15th Hussars, to FRANCES MARY de MUSSENDEN, eldest daughter of Colonel H. MUSSENDEN LEATHES, of Herringfleet Hall, Suffolk.

DEATHS.

Nov 28 at Elmbank, Crieff, N.B., CHARLOTTE MARJORY, widow of the late Rev. JAMES HENDERSON, D.D., of Glasgow, and daughter of the late James Reddie, Advocate.

Dec. 5, at New York, U.S.A., suddenly, of heart disease, E. J. LITTON, son of the Rev. E. A. Litton, Saunton Rectory, near Cheltenham.

Dec. 9, at the Vicarage, St. Paul's Walden, CHARLES EDWARD NEATE, Esq., aged 71.

Dec. 12 suddenly, at the Vicarage, South Petherwyn, Launceston, FRANCES MACKENZIE TEW, wife of the Rev. H. T. MAY, aged 67

Dec. 14, at Dover, suddenly, Sir HEW CRAWFURD-POLLOK, of Pollok, in the county of Renfrew, Bart.

Dec. 14, at Brighton, BLANCHE, second surviving daughter of the late Rev. CHARLES BRADLEY, of St. James's, Clapham, and of Glasbury, aged 67

Dec. 16, at Clifton, the Hon. WILLIAM LEONARD HOLMES-A COURT, the eldest son of Lord HEYTESBURY, aged 59.

Dec. 16, at 9, Hanover-street, W., ELIZA ADAMS, widow of the Rev. JOHN FLOWERDEW COLLS, D.D., formerly Rector of Laindon-cum-Basildon, Essex, aged 77.

LATEST NEWS.

Philippopolis, Dec. 18.

The foreign consulates here have each received up to the present, from different parts of the province, more than 200 petitions asking them to support the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and affirming the fidelity of the Roumelians to Prince Alexander.

Madrid, Dec. 18.

The journal *El Liberal* to-day expresses the belief that the object of the Moorish Embassy now here is to make arrangements for a treaty granting Spain the right of occupying certain portions of territory on the north and west coasts of Morocco, in return for which the Sultan hopes to secure the support of the Spanish Government against the colonising pretensions of Germany. The journal also believes that the Moorish Government has made similar proposals to France, offering concessions on the right bank of the Muluya river, and on the frontier of Algeria.

Melbourne, Dec. 18.

Parliament has been prorogued.

A proclamation has been issued, ordering quarantine to be imposed upon arrivals from Queensland and the northern territory of South Australia. Every precaution has been taken to prevent the introduction of cholera into this colony.

Mandalay, Dec. 17.

General Shoaylambo, who, at the head of one thousand troops, left here to oppose the British advance at Tonghoo, has returned to Mandalay, and surrendered to Colonel Sladen.

The Governor of Moutshobo has sent his submission to Colonel Sladen, at the same time remitting 20,000 rupees of outstanding revenue. He also sends as a prisoner to Mandalay the Prince who left the Burmese capital with the object of stirring up a revolt.

General Norman's brigade has left for Moutshobo to receive the submission of the inhabitants, who will also be required to give up their arms. The flying columns organised to clear the country round Mandalay of dacoits are slowly advancing through the jungle and swamps with which the district abounds.

Belgrade, Dec. 17.

The semi-official journal *Videlo*, which has issued no special telegraphic bulletin since the Servian defeat at Slivnitza, to-day publishes the following, dated Nish, Dec. 17:—"Peace is unassured, as, after prolonged mutual negotiations, Bulgaria makes an unfair demand for the evacuation of Widin by Servia. We seek an armistice for political reasons, and on a fair basis, with a view to peace; but, not obtaining it, Servia has decided to carry on the war to the last, and is now waiting for the enemy to take the offensive."

Athens, Dec. 17.

The Chamber of Deputies to-day voted by acclamation M. Delyannis' Bill authorising the Government to contract a loan of 100,000,000 drachmas to be used exclusively for the Army and Navy.

FINAL ELECTION RESULTS.

EDINBURGH AND ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITIES (1).

Dr. Macdonald (C)	2,840
Mr. J. E. Ericksen (R)	2,453

ORKNEY AND SHETLAND (1).

Lyell (R)	3,352
Dundas (C)	1,940

The Queen has been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood on Mr. Oswald W. Brierly, in recognition of his great abilities as an artist.

The *Stamford Mercury* says it is probable that a dukedom is to be given to the Marquis of Exeter, whose eldest son, Lord Burghley, recently saved a seat to the Conservatives in North Northamptonshire.

The Queen and Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, attended by the suite, left Windsor at eleven o'clock yesterday morning for Osborne. The Royal party travelled over the Great Western line to Basingstoke, and thence, *vid* the South-Western Railway, to Gosport, where they arrived at a quarter-past one, the train having been delayed somewhat by the fog. Her Majesty was received by the naval and military authorities, and at once embarked on board the Royal yacht *Alberta*, and left for Osborne.

The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels held its usual monthly meeting at the society's offices, 2, Dean's-yard, Westminster, on Thursday last. The Rev. C. F. Norman was in the chair, and there were also present Archdeacon Johnson, Canon Erskine Clarke, Canon T. W. Perry, the Rev. C. A. Jones, Mr. John Boodle, Mr. J. F. France, Mr. J. Hilton, Mr. Arthur Powell, Mr. J. W. B. Riddell, Mr. F. H. Rooke, and the Rev. R. Milburn Blakiston (secretary). Grants of money were made in aid of the following objects, viz.:—Building new churches at Battersea, St. Stephen's, Surrey, £175; Llanelly, Christ Church, Carmarthen, £150; and Stamford-hill, St. John, Middlesex, £175; rebuilding Holy Trinity, Hersham, Surrey, £50; and towards enlarging or otherwise improving the accommodation in the churches at Claines, St. John, near Worcester, £20; Maidstone, St. John, near Bishop's Castle, Salop, £10; South Milton, All Saints, near Kingsbridge, Devon, £55; Ninfield, St. Mary, near Battle, Sussex, £20; and Alkham, St. Antony, near Dover, £15. Grants were also made from the Special Mission Buildings Fund towards building mission churches at Leicester, St. Faith's, £20; Mountain Ash, St. David's, Glamorgan, £20; Oreston, the Good Shepherd, near Plymstock, Devon, £5; and Plymouth, St. Saviour's, Devon, £15. The society likewise accepted the trust of £500 as a repair fund for St. James's Church, Camberwell, Surrey. The sum of £300 was paid for works completed. During the past year grants amounting to £5,720 have been made towards the erection of 23 new churches (18 of which are entirely free and unappropriated), the rebuilding of seven, and the enlarging or otherwise improving the accommodation in 46 existing churches. Accommodation has been provided for 17,354, of which number 15,239 are entirely free. The carrying out of the above works called forth from the promoters of them the sum of £232,955. The committee have also granted the sum of £690 towards building 22 school or mission churches.

A FREE DISTRIBUTION OF COWS.

An Aylesbury correspondent, who signs himself "A Bucks Freeholder," encloses us a copy of the circular printed below, upon which he makes the following observations:—

"When Liberals appear to be acting in a truly liberal manner (not when they put their own liberal hands so freely into other people's pockets), are they worthy of your and my commendation?

"Although you, Sir, are a Tory, yet I am sure you will rejoice with me that, in one district of England at least—the county which owned a Burke and a Beaconsfield, where what looked like recent Liberal bribes have secured two Radical county members—certain of the truly Liberal promises seem not unlikely to be fulfilled, and this before the year closes.

"I learn that the enclosed 'Public Notice' has been largely circulated in this county, and has received much attention and much commendation.

"The distribution of one instalment of no less than 237 cows within one week seems to me very liberal indeed. It is not as yet, however, at all clear from whence the cows will come. This is one misfortune. Who are the benefactors?

"But of course the great and special difficulty will arise from the fact that, with the ballot (which I detest), Hodge will be quite unable to prove that he has voted in harmony with the sentiments of those who are about to make so liberal and acceptable a distribution.

"In fact, I see so grave a practical difficulty arising, which, it appears to me, will not be at all easy to overcome with success."

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Bucks to Wit.: Whereas divers of Her Majesty's subjects, on a recent occasion Voted "straight and right," in consideration of receiving in the future certain benevolences purposely and generously promised for the Vote in question. This is to Declare and Proclaim to all those who are so anxiously expecting the same, that there will be

FIVE FREE DISTRIBUTIONS OF HORNED CATTLE

to every person who can prove the validity and value of his recent vote, as follows:—

1. At Aylesbury Market, on Saturday, December 26, Forty-seven Cows: For the parishes of Aylesbury, Waddesdon, Upper and Lower Winchendon, Dinton, Bierton, Stone and Hartwell.

2. At Cheddington Railway Station, on Monday, December 28th, Thirty-nine Cows: For Cheddington, Long Marston, Hulcott, Mentmore, Wing, and Drayton Beauchamp.

3. At Thame Market, on Tuesday, December 29th, Fifty-four Cows: For Wornall, Ickford, Oakley, Shabbington, Boarstall, Brill, Chilton and Crendon.

4. At Wendover Townhall, on Wednesday, December 30th, Forty-six Cows: For Wendover, Haddenham, Cuddington, Chearsley, Aston Clinton and Monks' Risborough.

5. At Winslow Railway Station, on Thursday, December 31st, Fifty-one Cows: For Winslow, Addington, Grandborough, Twyford, Grendon and Buckingham.

Duly-numbered Tickets entitling the holder to a single Cow (each animal bearing a corresponding figure affixed to its Tail) may now be obtained without any charge from

The Viscountess Primrose-Rosebery, Cheddington Court.
Baron Francis de Rothschild, M.P., Waddesdon Grange.
Rear-Admiral Verney, Three-Bottle Claydon, near Winslow.
Mr. Bartlet, J.P., The Cookeries, Stone.
Mr. Robert Gibbs, J.P., The Churchyard, Aylesbury.

*** Every Ticket must contain clear and conclusive proof that the holder of it Voted "straight and right," or it cannot be accepted; and before presentation must be attested respectively by the High Sheriff, the Public Vaccinator, the Baptist Minister, the Inspector of Nuisances, the President of the Local Board of Health, the Superintendent of the Stone Lunatic Asylum, the Chairman of the Aylesbury Patent Milk Company, and the Parish Midwife.

N.B.—It must likewise, in every case, be countersigned by

Mr. Clarke, M.P. for Haddenham, Bucks.

The due apportionment of

THREE ACRES OF LAND

may possibly take place a little later on, viz.: at the Greek Kalends. Applicants, therefore, should send in their names and claims fully and clearly set forth to

The Right Hon. Lord ROTHSCHILD, sometime M.P. for Aylesbury, without any delay.

BY ORDER.

Secure your Tickets at once!—Come Early!!—Free choice of Prime Midlothian Cattle!!!—Grand display of Oratorical Fireworks every evening!!!!—Further Liberal arrangements in contemplation!!!!!

VIVAT REGINA.

The Naples *Piccolo* of the 7th inst. gives the following letter from Professor Modestino del Gaizo: "The extraordinary shower of falling stars seen on the 27th of November was followed by a splendid coda. Yesterday, at 10.25 a.m., an aerolite fell here in Via del Giorentini. It is cuneiform, presenting a superficial patina, and weighs over six kilogrammes, without counting the fragments that fell from the apex in its rapid flight earthwards. In these fragments were found mineral crystals, such as those on account of which the illustrious Gustavo Rose named some of the aerolites euchroites. Some of the people who witnessed the fall of the aerolite were as terrified as though they had felt the shock of an earthquake; and the general stupefaction increased when Professor Domenico de Luca, to calm all fears, announced that the stone had fallen from heaven. It may be worth notifying that an aerolite fell in Naples on the 29th of November, 1389."

SOCIETY.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Charles D. King, Royal Artillery, second son of Colonel King, A.D.C. to the Queen, Royal Horse Artillery, and Evelyn M., elder daughter of Mr. Ernest Alers Hankey, of Bickley, Kent.

Also between Mr. E. C. J. Williams, the Buffs, youngest son of Major-General Williams, deputy Adjutant-General R.M., and Florence, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Keily, of Stonehurst, Killiney, county Dublin.

Also between Captain Arthur Cairnes Daniell, Royal Artillery, second son of Colonel J. Le Geyt Daniell, and Rose, second daughter of Captain Walter B. Persse, of Bagnalstown, county Carlow, Ireland.

The marriage of Mr. Francis E. Pease with Miss Isabella Cole-Hamilton, only daughter of the late Captain Cole-Hamilton, of Ballitor House, county Kildare, took place on Tuesday morning, at St. Peter's, Eaton-square, the Rev. Arthur Cole-Hamilton, rector of Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, assisted by the Rev. Canon Straton, rector of Wakefield, officiating. The bride, who was given away by Mr. A. R. Cole-Hamilton, wore a dress of pearl-white satin with white china crêpe, caught up with orange blossoms, myrtle and heather, the bodice being trimmed with white marabouts—the long train borne by Masters Frederick Creighton and John Cole-Hamilton in white sailor-suits. The tulle veil was fastened with a diamond pin. The bridesmaids were Miss E. Creighton, Miss Gaussen, Miss N. Edwards, and Miss Isabel Hazlerigg, who wore frocks of cream canvas and yak plush, Tam o' Shanter hats, with yellow pompons and yellow sashes. The best man was Mr. Arthur Pease. The bride and bridegroom left later for Brighton, Mrs. Pease's travelling costume being of dark green, tailor-made, with bonnet to match.

On Tuesday morning was solemnised at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Rev. G. E. Goodwin, assisted by Canon Scott-Holland, the marriage of Mr. Hallam Murray and Miss du Cane, daughter of Mr. Richard du Cane, who gave her away. Sir Bartle Frere was the best man. The service was choral, and the altar was decorated. The bride wore a very handsome dress of striped satin, with full petticoat, a little drapery tied on the right side, and on the left there was a trailing cluster of orange blossoms. Her corsage was tight-fitting, and her train a long one. Her long tulle veil was fastened with orange blossoms and diamond sprays, and she wore a necklace of pearls. She was attended by six bridesmaids—the three Misses du Cane, and the Misses Murray, Guest, and Elliot, who wore dresses of blue nun's cloth with box-pleated skirts, long drapery, and tight-fitting bodices, the fronts of the bodices and the cuffs braided with blue over white satin, four wearing brown velvet bonnets trimmed with blue satin convolvuluses, and two brown straw hats all en suite. They carried exquisite bouquets of pink carnations, white lilacs, and gardenias tied with pink satin ribbon, and gold and pearl brooches. There was a large and distinguished company. After a déjeûner at the residence of the bride's mother, in Portland-place, Mr. and Mrs. Murray left for Milton Abbey.

The marriage of Dr. Murphy, of Holly House, Sunderland, nephew of the Hon. Mr. Justice Murphy, with Miss Nana Moore, daughter of the late Mr. W. Moore, of Herrington Hall, county Durham, was solemnised recently at Christ Church, Sunderland, by the Rev. Canon Scott Moncrieff. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. W. S. Moore, of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Major Triphook, of the Durham Light Infantry, acted as best man on behalf of the bridegroom.

The marriage of Mr. Malcolm Cross with Miss Mary S. Walker, elder daughter of the late Mr. Archibald Walker, of Glasgow, was celebrated in Belhaven Church, Glasgow, on November 25. At the conclusion of the ceremony the bride was presented with a handsome Bible, the gift of the ladies of the congregation. The bride, who was given away by her elder brother, wore a dress of ivory satin, with pearl and chenille embroidery; her train was carried by two nephews of the bridegroom, dressed in quaint costumes of ruby velvet. The eight bridesmaids were attired in dresses of cream and pink surah, trimmed with lace, and wore wreaths of pink chrysanthemums and tulle veils, fastened by diamond swallows, the gift of the bridegroom. The ceremony over, Mrs. Walker received the wedding party at her residence in Crown-terrace, and later the newly-wedded couple started on their honeymoon. The bride's travelling dress was navy-blue cloth over velvet, jacket and bonnet to match. The presents, which were very numerous, were many of them of great value.

The marriage of the Rev. Philip Palfrey Broadmead, vicar of Bradford, near Taunton, third son of Mr. Broadmead, of Enmore Park, Somerset, with Miss Edith Birch, youngest daughter of the late Mr. George Birch, of St. Petersburg, was solemnised in Weston Church, Bath, on the 24th ult. The five bridesmaids were dressed in cream canvas and electric-blue plush, with bonnets to match. Each wore a gold brooch on which was a bee in pearls and sapphires, the design being chosen by the bridegroom, whose gift it was, and carried a bouquet of chrysanthemums and maidenhair ferns. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. G. Birch (18th Hussars), was attired in a dress of rich white Ottoman silk and frisé velvet trimmed with natural orange blossoms, a wreath to correspond in her hair, and a veil. The Rev. A. H. Hoare, vicar of Fawley, near Southampton, officiated, assisted by the Rev. R. W. Lewis, of Weston. Among the relatives and friends present at the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Broadmead and the Misses Nellie and Florence Broadmead, Mr. and Mrs. James Broadmead, Mr. William Broadmead, General Abdy, Col. Picton Warlow and Miss Warlow, Miss Broadmead, the Misses B. and C. Broadmead, Mrs. Cazalet, Miss Alice Cazalet, Mr. Graham Bush, the Rev. M. T. Loveband, the Rev. C. V. Baumgarten, &c. As the bride and bridegroom passed to their carriage the village schoolchildren strewed their pathway with flowers. After the wedding breakfast, at Spring Grove, the Rev. Philip and Mrs. Broadmead left for South Devon. The bride's travelling dress was composed of heather serge, trimmed with crimson plush, and hat to match.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

A Prize of One Guinea is given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on December 5, 12, 19, and 26.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competitions so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.

(Tenth Month, Tenth Year.)

1. F luf F
2. I O
3. S allo W
4. H ote L

Solutions have been received from Random Shot, Yar, Sociable, and Asphodel.

September Ties.—Correct solutions have been received from Allspice and Persevere, who remain competing. Etak and Iris fall out of the competition.

October Ties.—Correct solutions have been received from Beam, Godiva, Katydid, Rad, and Roma, who remain competing. Zyx falls out of the competition.

November Ties.—Correct solutions have been received from Bijou and Co., Hampton Courtier, M. A. E. B., Peewit, and Senga, who remain competing. All others fall out of the competition.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 3.

(Tenth Month, Tenth Year.)

Proem.

Fallen, almost alone,
His slaves, his flatterers fled,
He waits upon his throne
The conqueror's heavy tread.
The dark and lurid cloud
Which o'er the city lay,
That storm of rage and blood
Is gone and pass'd away

1.

Seek me beside the tare, and not the wheat.

2.

Of doubtful sanctity, to most I'm sweet.

3.

You can't have both, but either you may keep.

4.

Lamb you may call me—never term me *sheep*.]

5.

This warlike chieftain yet may prove a curse.

6.

An useful word that helps me in my verse.

7.

"Why vex our brains with rhymes absurd?" you cry:
And swift a mocking voice flings back reply.

B. V.

TO THE AUTHOR OF UNTOLD BLOODSHED, MISERY, AND SHAME, IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE.

The head of him whom England has forgot
Hung five days on a flesh-hook in Khartoum,
Where no man passed that did not spit on it.
Yours wags upon your shoulders, some two feet
Above your heart, where it may stay for me—
While Baptist Pharisees and cultured Scribes
With all their rabble stand exulting by—
For I can find no baser place for it.

But would you know which hath the better part,
Dead Gordon spat on by his enemies,
Or you beslavered by your flattering friends?
Ask any of Britannia's generous youth,
Who stand and wait and count for nothing now,
But, if the fates and envious stars permit,
Shall yet endow us with as pure a fame,
And you shall have an answer that shall ring
Ages and ages after you are dead,
Down to the niche marked in the deepest hell,
Which, scholar as you are, you well do know,
Where Dante says the place of traitors is,
And Judas lies icebound with Lucifer.

St. James's Gazette.

The Bishop of Liverpool took part in the opening of a fine Missions to Seamen Institute at Liverpool last week. The site, a corner one, was purchased at £7,500, and half of it disposed of to the British Workman Publichouse Company, who have erected a Cocoahouse upon it. On the remaining portion of land a Missions to Seamen Institute has been built at a further cost of £4,430; in which there is to be a daily service for seamen, except on Saturdays. As there is no Seamen's Church, it is hoped that the prayer-room may be licensed for the administration of the Lord's Supper, so that this holy ordinance may not be withheld from seamen frequenting Liverpool.

The *Graphic* of December 26 will contain a large and elaborately prepared map of the United Kingdom, printed in colours, and showing at a glance the results of the general election which has just taken place. The new arrangement of boroughs and county divisions is given, and each is coloured in accordance with the political opinions of the member returned. In every case also the name of such member and the number of votes polled is recorded.

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